

THE North-China Herald

AND SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

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LATEST MAIL DATES.

England, ...	Jan. 22	Hankow, ...	Mar. 7
San Francisco	30	Yokohama, ...	Feb. 24
Hongkong, ...	Mar. 6	Nagasaki, ...	Mar. 3
Tientsin, ...	Feb. 17	Foochow, ...	„ 4

The English mail of 27th January, arrived in London on the 9th instant.

PASSENGERS.

DEPARTED.

Per str. *Anchises*, for London—Mrs. Howes, and Mrs. Richardson. For Hongkong—Mrs. Booth, Dr. Wheeler, and Mr. A. Rogers.
Per str. *Nagoya Maru*, for Nagasaki—Mr. H. C. Schiern. For Yokohama—Messrs. G. F. Gregory, A. J. Lines, M. S. Crawford and J. Bland.
Per str. *Seewo*, for Amoy—Mr. and Mrs. J. W. and Miss Ord.
Per str. *Wuchang*, for Tientsin—Capt. Lang, R.N., Lieut. Bouchier, Mr. and Mrs. Spinney, Messrs. Chalmers and Maclean.

Per str. *Chungking*, for Tientsin—Messrs. Watkins, Krauss, Eriou, Exner, and Bethge.
Per str. *El Dorado*, for Tientsin—Mr. L. Courvoisier.
Per str. *Kowshing*, for Tientsin—General Chanoine and European servant, Messrs. D. O'Rourke, J. T. Smith and S. M. McLeish.
Per str. *Hagan*, for Tientsin—H.E. Tan and suite, Judge Denny, Messrs. W. Cope, Ewen Cameron and J. R. M. Smith.
Per str. *Fungshun*, for Tientsin—Capt. Morse.
Per str. *Poochi*, for Tientsin—Mr. J. W. Mielenhausen.
Per str. *Haeting*, for Chefoo—Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Henderson.
Per str. *Nanzing*, for Foochow—Mr. T. Warin.
Per str. *Kwanglee*, for Hongkong—H.E. T. de Souza e Roza, Capt. I. Passos, Dr. Marques d'Oliveira, Mrs. and Miss Bush, Messrs. Douglas Jones and E. Stone.
Per str. *Yehsin*, for Chefoo—Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Wills and two children, and Mr. Fabris.

ARRIVED.

Per str. *Menelaus*, from Liverpool, &c.—Dr. and Mrs. Pruett, Mr. and Mrs. Freeman, and Mr. Corrie.
Per str. *Clyde*, from Bombay—Messrs. J. E. Judah and J. Judah. From London—Miss Yallop, Mr. and Mrs. Wills and infant, Mr. and Mrs. C. Holliday and child, Surgeon T. S. Crowley, Messrs. Greenshield, Gulliver and Everett. From Brindisi—Messrs. John Wilson and Walter. From Colombo—Miss Mantell. From Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Ewen Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. Kenmore, Major Walker, Captain S. M. Mills, Lieut. Ozzard, Sergeants Savage and Moss, Messrs. P. Q. Chew, P. C. Nou, P. T. Poo, K. S. Shung, L. Y. Shum, C. K. Wai, Jam, Law, J. A. Chalmers, A. J. Jeremiah, J. P. da Silva, K. Bethge, H. Exner, C. Eriou, and da Silva.
Per str. *Kiangyng*, from Hankow—Mr. Bland.
Per str. *Kowshing*, from Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. John Bailey, Messrs. Macomber and York.
Per str. *Fuhwo*, from Hankow—Mr. Vizen-zinovlosh.
Per str. *Kwanglee*, from Hongkong—Messrs. Rodgers, Sang, Cheong and Wai Tung.
Per str. *Hiroshima Maru*, from Japan—H.E. T. de Souza e Roza, Capt. Ignacio Pessoa, Capt. and Mrs. Stout, Dr. Marques d'Oliveira, Mr. and Mrs. Herton and maid, Mrs. E. Noble, Miss A. Sedgwick, Messrs. C. W. Baird and O. W. Lindholm.
Per str. *Canton*, from Hongkong—Mr. Symons.
Per str. *Ichang*, from Ningpo—Messrs. F. J. Marshall and Layman.
Per str. *Amoy*, from Hongkong—Mr. Moller.
Per str. *Glengarry*, from Hongkong, &c.—Messrs. C. M. Best, J. A. Pond, E. Palamontain, J. McKie, T. C. Waters, J. Reynell, J. Beecher, and J. Brown.
Per str. *Kiangteen*, from Ningpo—Bishop Moule.
Per str. *Yehsin*, from Foochow—Mr. W. Webster.
Per str. *Ichang*, from Ningpo—Mr. Tomlinson.
Per str. *Yuenwo*, from Hankow—Dr. White, Messrs. Pike and Kelly.
Per str. *Kungwo*, from Hankow—Messrs. Browne and Williamson.
Per str. *Kiangfoo*, from Chinkiang—Mr. and Mrs. N. S. Hopkins.
Per str. *Taiwo*, from Chinkiang—Mr. Bain. From Hankow—Mr. Byres, and Master Harris.

LEAVING.

Per str. *Peshawar*, for London—The Rt. Rev. Bishop and Mrs. Moule and family, Messrs. F. H. Balfour and Taneta Mori. For Hongkong—Miss Burmeister and Mr. Tullock.

PRICE OF THE NORTH-CHINA HERALD and S. C. & C. GAZETTE.—Per Annum, Tals 12; Six Months, Tals 6.50. Three Months, 3.50—all payable in advance. Credit price, Tls. 13.15 per Annum; Subscriptions will be considered as renewed unless notice to the contrary be given before the expiry of the current term.

The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL, NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, WEDNESDAY, MAR. 10, 1886.

THE news that the French Senate has approved the Treaty with Madagascar opens the prospect that trade will soon be again resumed there, and of an improved condition of affairs in the island. For over two hundred and fifty years Madagascar has had a singular attraction for the French Government and French merchants, and both have made several attempts to establish military power and commercial stations on the coast, but the history of these is almost forgotten. They first turned their attention to Madagascar a very few years after proposals to establish factories there, which had been warmly supported by some adventurers, had been rejected by the English East India Co. It was then considered doubtful if the island was well populated; the tribes waged internecine wars; they were held to be mostly cannibals; little was known of their manners, customs or resources. Christianity, however, had made some progress among them; the excellent lives and doctrines of some friars had caused the natives to put them to death in order that they might accompany and encourage the spirit of a departed chief. In 1633 a Company of Dieppe merchants who had sent ships to the East, and some of whom, in the manner of the traders of that time, had accompanied their ventures, reported highly of the commercial capabilities of Madagascar. Nine years afterwards a Company was formed in France, and received a charter from the King granting it certain privileges for twenty years. But, says a French historian, the cruelties of its agents terminated its existence before then; all its capital

was spent; and its only assets were some hamlets on the coast surrounded by stakes and pompously called forts because they had a few batteries in them. Only a hundred men remained in these; "thieves who were hated by the people and whose conduct increased the hatred of the natives to France." They held control over a few districts near their forts which the natives had abandoned, and there were other larger tracts from which they exacted tribute in the shape of provisions. A Marshal de Meillera, unfortunately for himself, undertook the revival of French interests; he seized on the ruins; but his efforts met with so little success that after a short time his property in the island was sold for the equivalent of £830, which we are told was as much as it was worth. In 1664 Minister Colbert founded the French East India Company, which was to make France the rival in the East of England and all other European powers; and the Directors again chose Madagascar as the principal field of their enterprise, and made Tamatave their port, where four French ships arrived in 1665, "in order to form a solid establishment inexpensively." The conduct of the agents of the Company was as bad as that of their predecessors; they wasted its funds and as much more as they could lay their hands on, and made themselves abhorred by the natives. After four years of this work the Company resigned its possessions in the island to their Government, but without any better results following; as within two years all but a few of the French were massacred, and the remainder left for home. Still, the Court of Versailles kept its eye on Madagascar, and attempts to found settlements were made more than a century afterwards, in 1770 and 1773. A year after the latter, Baron Benyowsky, a Pole, founded a French settlement on the Eastern side of the island, but the supineness of the Home Government and the hostility of the natives caused it to decay gradually, and it was ultimately abandoned. Early in this century all the French possession were given up; at that time civil disorders rendered the island anything but a place for the residence and commerce of foreigners. But when something like efficient government had been established by King Radama, Madagascar became of some importance to European traders. The Treaty under which France claimed the protectorate of a portion of the north of the island was made in 1841, with a Sakalava chief, and since 1883 she has been endeavouring by force to assert the position which she maintained had been given her. Up to that time France

had, like all other nations, practically acknowledged the Hovas as dominant over the whole island.

France has now a fine opportunity of cultivating peaceful commerce with Madagascar. Among the other European Powers whose subjects have sought fields for their enterprise in the East, she alone has shown a special, perhaps we may say the only strong desire to establish her influence there; others have been content to allow their traders to make what they could of the island and its people. From before historical times Madagascar had been visited by merchants; first by the Phoenicians, and afterwards by the Arabs, who have left their traces among the inhabitants of parts of the sea-coast. From the time of its first discovery by a European—the Portuguese commander Soarez, on his return voyage from the East to Europe,—when it was named St. Lawrence, it has served as a place for refitting vessels, and in later days for a not very extensive trade. Whether France will be recompensed for all the sacrifices she has made by the future prosperity of those of her citizens whom the advantages secured to the nation by this treaty may induce to settle in the island, will depend on the character of the Frenchmen who go there and the reasonableness of the conduct of their officials towards the native rulers and people. The Hovas have shown high spirit in defending their rights and the sovereignty of their Queen Ranavalona the Second, and if these are respected, a happy and fortunate future may be in store for the natives and the foreign residents. M. Freycinet assured the Chamber some little time since that the Republic would not in any way interfere in the domestic affairs of the country, but that its Ministers and agents would restrict themselves to guiding the Hovas "by advice and example in the path of progress and civilization." The field for these ameliorating influences is tolerably ample, as there are supposed to be three millions or more natives; the land is fertile, yielding many valuable tropical and sub-tropical productions, and the island has been found to have several minerals, such as silver, copper, iron and coal. Its trade in 1882 was small, amounting to the value of about £800,000, but in the five previous years it had largely increased; that in Exports to Great Britain having risen from £4,300 in 1878 to £87,800 in 1882; the United States had also a growing commerce with the island. The country is practically unexplored, and offers a fine field for adventurous spirits, such as France has always been possessed of, and at no time in greater number than during the last half-century.

Summary of News.

A mail leaves to-morrow morning for Europe, by the P. & O. Co.'s str. *Peshawar*.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

[BY EASTERN EXTENSION A. AND C. TEL. CO.]
(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS.

London, 2nd March.

The Premier made a statement with regard to Affairs in Egypt, that the British Government were desirous if possible to maintain a continuity of the previous policy.

ONE DIFFICULTY ARRANGED.

London, 3rd March.

A treaty of peace has been signed between Bulgaria and Servia.

CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES.

The Chinese Government have demanded an indemnity for the outrages committed on Chinese subjects in America, but President Cleveland refuses. The Governor of Canton has telegraphed to the Chinese Minister at Washington threatening reprisals.

A PEACEFUL SIGN.

London, 4th March.

The Servians are demobilising.

THE FRENCH PRINCES.

The French Chamber of Deputies have rejected by a large majority the Bill for the expulsion of the Princes. The Government opposed the proposal.

THE HEREDITARY PRINCIPLE.

5th March.

The House of Commons has negatived a motion for the abolition of the hereditary principle in the House of Lords.

FRENCH TREATY WITH MADAGASCAR.

London, 7th March.

The French Senate has approved of the Treaty entered into with Madagascar.

A THREATENED TURKISH ULTIMATUM.

A Turkish ultimatum to Greece calling upon her to disarm is expected.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

London, 8th March.

The *Times* in a leading article announces that the Army Estimates only provide for £8,000 for Egypt.

TELEGRAMS.

(From Indo China Papers.)

MINISTERS FOR HUE AND HANOI.

Paris, 3rd February.

M. Dillon and M. Vial have been appointed Ministers Resident for France, the first at Hué and the second at Hanoi.

M. BLANCUSUBÉ'S ELECTION.

Paris, 13th February.

The Eleventh Bureau of the Chamber has invalidated M. Blancusubé's election as Deputy for Cochinchina.

COLONEL HERBINGER'S COURT MARTIAL.

The inquiry into Colonel Herbinger's conduct has resulted favourably to the Colonel.

Freemasons in the Far East will be pleased to learn that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M. W. Grand Master of English

Freemasonry, has appointed W. Bro. J. I. Miller to the office of District Grand Master of Northern China.

Shao, Tao-t'ai, is to act in Hongkong on the Commission provided for by the Chefoo Convention, to devise some means of preventing smuggling from the Colony into the mainland, while dispensing with the cordon of cruizers which the Chinese have established round the island. That is the principal object of his mission.

We were informed last night (5th) that the French and German Ministers are no longer opposed to the terms of the Opium Convention, entered into last year in London.

We understand that Sr. Alba de Salcedo, the Minister for Spain, has been recalled by telegraph by his Government, and that he will be succeeded by Sr. Rodriguez, who was Spanish Minister here some five years ago.

The three gentlemen representing the German railway and financial syndicate left this for Tientsin by the *Chungking* on Saturday morning. They are fully accredited by Prince Bismarck to the German Minister at Peking.

Judge Denny was a passenger by the *Haeen* which left here on Saturday morning for Tientsin.

General Chanoine, Military Attaché to the French Legation at Peking, left here on Saturday morning for his post in the *Kowshing*.

H.E. Senhor T. de Souza Roza, Governor of Macao, arrived at Shanghai from Japan on Thursday in the *Hiroshima Maru*. H.E. was received at the Nippon Yusen Kaisha Company's Wharf by the Portuguese Consul, Senhor Coelho de Carvalho, and a few of his compatriots, and left for Hongkong by the *Kwanglee* on the 9th inst.

H.E. Li Hung-chang intends leaving Tientsin for Peking on the 18th instant.

H.E. Tan, late Provincial Treasurer for Kiangsu, having been promoted to the rank of Governor of Hupei, left on Saturday morning in the *Haeen* to proceed to Peking and express his thanks to the Emperor.

An official named Tong arrived here on Saturday morning in a gunboat from Nanking and will act for the Shanghai Tao-t'ai during his absence at Hongkong. We have heard it stated that the Tao-t'ai awaits the arrival at Hongkong of Mr. A. Davenport.

The acting Agent of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company informs us that he has received telegraphic advices from Hongkong informing him that the *Thames*, despatched hence with mails, etc., on the 25th ult., after leaving that port homeward bound on Tuesday evening (2nd), struck the south point of the Lyceum pass at 10 p.m., during a dense fog, and damaged her bows, necessitating her being docked at Hongkong. The mails, passengers and a portion of the cargo are being sent on by the *Teheran*, leaving Hongkong at 4 p.m. on Wednesday. Another telegram states that the steamer's fore hold was full of water.

A telegram from Osaka, dated the 16th February, and published in a Yokohama native paper, says that five of the old Liberal members, who were arrested on suspicion of high treason, have been released. The trials are almost finished, and there are many who will be dismissed.

There has been a considerable fall of rain at Hankow lately causing the river to rise twenty-one inches in twenty-four hours. When the *Kiangyung* left the water mark was 5 feet 6 inches, and when the *Kungwo* left it was 9 feet.

On Saturday evening the members of the Customs Club supplemented the series of very pleasant entertainments which they have been giving this season with a "Soirée musicale et dansante," at which a large number of ladies and gentlemen were present. The pretty little theatre which has been formed at the Club served, first as concert-room and afterwards as ball-room. The

concert opened with "Le Caliphe de Bagdad," capitolally performed by a large orchestra of amateur instrumentalists. The remainder of the programme comprised three songs by ladies and three by gentlemen, a concerto by Kreutzer, very skilfully played by an amateur violinist, and a solo for the cornet, with orchestral accompaniment, very finely played. Mtiée's "Tis not true" was very effectively sung by a gentleman whose fine baritone voice is familiar to Shanghai audiences. A programme of sixteen dances formed the second part of the entertainment, which was very enjoyable throughout.

Two extraordinary cases of robbery came before the Mixed Court on Monday. In one case, a coolie was charged with being concerned with others in stealing two ship's masts from the foreshore in front of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's godowns at Pootung. It appeared that there had been previous litigation with regard to these masts, and that their owner, a Chinaman, had been restrained by the City authorities from taking possession of them until he had paid a debt of Tls. 100 owing by him to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's compadore. Nevertheless he appears to have hired about thirty coolies to carry away the masts. The watchmen employed on the premises endeavoured to prevent their removal, but only succeeded in detaining one of the coolies at work on the job, this man being accordingly charged with robbery. The case was remanded. In another case a shroff in a native bank was charged with stealing from his employers about Tls. 10,000. Learning that he was about to be discharged from his employment, he abstracted from a safe an order on another bank for Tls. 7,000 which he subsequently cashed in gold bars. The discovery of this loss led to the discovery that other sums had also been stolen by the shroff, and the police were put on his track, with the result that the man was arrested and the bulk of the money recovered. The prisoner was remanded for enquiries.

On Friday afternoon, a Chinaman in foreign employ was proceeding through the French Concession with some opium belonging to his master. While so engaged, he was pounced upon by a lekin runner who attempted to drag him into the city. A struggle ensued, during which a policeman appeared on the scene and the runner was taken into custody. They all went to the French Police Station, and on it being ascertained that the opium carrier was in the employ of a British subject, the parties were sent to the Central Station. The Chinaman referred to is the same man whom some runners recently dragged into the city.

A Chinese carpenter committed suicide on Saturday in a tea-shop on Nanzing Road, Hongkew. The man appears to have been sick, and this preying on his mind, he cut his throat.

The Ningpo Chinese who have been home for the New-Year holidays are returning to Shanghai. As many as five hundred and twenty-eight arrived here on Sunday by the *Ichang*.

Yesterday there was another influx of natives from Ningpo, the *Kiangteen* bringing no less than eight hundred and fifty-three who have returned after the holidays.

The Great Northern Telegraph Co.'s steamer *Store Nordiske* which left here some ten days ago to repair the Nagasaki-Vladivostock cable, was heard from yesterday, and what she has done is a remarkable instance of the accuracy of modern cable work. The tests gave the break in the cable as being some 300 miles north of Nagasaki. The steamer proceeded to this point, grappled for the cable in 100 fathoms of water, brought it up, but it was found that the break was between her and Nagasaki. She buoyed the Vladivostock cable and then proceeded to pick up towards Nagasaki. After one mile of cable had been picked up the break was found, and the

steamer is now only waiting fair weather to repair it. The accuracy of the calculations involved in such a work is admirable. The break in the cable was due to the fact that it passes here over copper at the seabottom, which gradually corrodes the iron covering of the cable.

One of the steamers which arrived on Saturday reports seeing at anchor a vessel which did not have her name painted either on her bow or stern. This is probably the British vessel that left here on Thursday. According to the Merchant Shipping Act of 1854, sec. 34, " * * the name of each ship, and the port to which she belongs shall be painted on a conspicuous part of her stern on a dark ground in white or yellow letters of a length not less than four inches." Failing to comply with this, renders the owner liable to a penalty not exceeding £100.

The French ironclad *Tarene*, with Admiral Rieunier on board, arrived at Amoy on the 28th February.

The following steamers left Shanghai on Saturday morning at ten o'clock for Tientsin:—*Sin Nanzing*, *Taku*, *El Dorado*, *Chungking*, *Wuchang*, *Fungshun*, *Haeen*, *Toonan*, *Kowshing*. They were met by the *Yehsin* off the Red Buoy at noon, and the *El Dorado* was then leading. It was originally intended to despatch the boats on Friday night, but considering the danger there would be to so many vessels leaving in the dark, the departures were postponed till as soon as the tide would serve after daylight on Saturday. The *Kowshing* had the English, and the *Taku*, the American mail on board. On Sunday the following vessels left for Tientsin:—*Wenchow*, and *Elsa*, while the *Haeting* and *Hangchow* left for Chefoo, the former vessel to continue her voyage to Tientsin.

Telegrams have been received in Shanghai announcing the arrival of some steamers which left here for the north on Saturday morning, among them being the *Kowshing*, first, on Monday afternoon, and the *Chungking*, *Wuchang* and *Haeen*.

The Senate of the United States is much exercised about President Cleveland's removals from and appointments to office. One of the Republican cries at the recent election was, that if the Democrats came into power, the thousands of Republican officials all over the States and abroad would be turned out to make room for Democrats. As a fact, the changes made by President Cleveland have been moderate in number and generally justifiable, but it appears that the U.S. Senate has just taken up the case of a Republican, Mr. N. W. Armstrong, Collector of Internal Revenue at Utica, who has been dismissed by the President to make room for an alleged Democrat. The Senate demanded to know the reasons of the removal, and "they came in the shape of a letter from Armstrong himself, which is said to have made the Senate roar with laughter. It informed the President, in bad grammar and bad spelling, that although ostensibly a stalwart Republican, Armstrong had really during the last campaign covertly worked hard for Cleveland's election, and if the President would keep him in office, as a Republican, he would continue to serve the Democrats in every way in his power, and particularly in the old-fashioned way of removals and appointments." This letter effectually wiped out Mr. Armstrong even with his Republican friends.

The Mexican Government is about to establish a meteorological station, fitted with the most approved apparatus, much of it being automatic, on one of the highest mountains, at an elevation of nearly 20,000 feet above the sea level. The required apparatus is being constructed by Hottinger of Zurich.

Referring to the new Secretary of Legation at Peking, the London *Figaro* says:—"Mr. William Edward Goschen has been sent to be Secretary to our Legation at Peking; a most favourable field just now

for the development of diplomatic tact and address. Young Mr. Goschen's career in China will be watched with close attention."

The *Glasgow Mail* says that the Japanese cruisers ordered some time ago from a firm on the Tyne are now nearly finished. They are very fast vessels, one of them having shown a speed of nearly nineteen knots an hour. Japan has also ordered thirty-eight torpedo boats of various descriptions to be constructed with all possible speed. The whole will be sent out in pieces, to be put together in Japanese dockyards.

The *Nagasaki Rising Sun* regrets to hear that a telegram has been received in Japan, announcing the death, at Peking, of Mr. T. R. H. McCutchie, late First Assistant and Interpreter at H.B.M.'s Consulate, Yokohama. Deceased was, at the time of his death, en route to England on leave of absence.

The *Nagasaki Rising Sun* states that for several months past a highly commendable movement has been on foot to establish a Free Hospital in Nagasaki, for the use of natives and foreigners alike; and that paper is glad to be in a position to state that the efforts of the promoters of the scheme have up to the present met with a reasonable amount of success. A temporary institution has already been opened; and it believes that there is every prospect of a permanent one being eventually established upon a firm basis.

This is from the *China Mail*:—The *Temps* commenting on the statement that Germany will refuse to give her consent to the regulations framed by China to carry out the Opium Convention, with Great Britain, says:—To sum up the matter, Germany claims compensation. Her objections were foreseen. The Convention which deals with the modification of the duties collectable on the import of opium could not be a matter of indifference to the nation which is actually in the Chinese seas making so vigorous a commercial campaign against England that one of our Correspondents wrote us lately that in a few years English commerce would be relegated to the second rank throughout the Far East. In treating on the basis of the suppression of 'Lekin,' that intern duty which burdens opium like all other articles of commerce in Chinese territory, the negotiators of the Convention, Lord Salisbury and the Marquis Tseng, sought reciprocal advantages for their respective countries; in fact, the suppression of the 'Lekin' on opium would have been the foundation of a remodelling of the Customs tariff, and in the near future of the overthrow of the inland customs; and thenceforward it was anticipated in England that the importation of cotton fabrics and other articles imported into China would increase in extraordinary proportions. On the other hand, in confining the levy of imports to the Imperial Customs, the Marquis Tseng would pour into the treasury of China the sums diverted by the rapacity of the mandarins, sums which would enable the Celestial Empire to create an army and navy. All the treaties, however, which bind China to the Western Powers are identical, and cannot be modified except with the consent of all the contracting parties. Hence the difficulty of putting into execution the projected modifications of the Customs regulations relating to opium, the importation of which does not constitute a monopoly.

The *China Mail* of 1st instant says:—One of the oldest residents in Canton assures us that the anti-foreign feeling there has never been higher than it is at the present moment, and the temperament of the people bears a strong resemblance to that which existed immediately preceding the riot of September, 1883; in fact so strong is the feeling that a foreigner can scarcely go a short distance into the city without being frequently insulted and having his ears regaled with the pleasant expression 'kill.' On this account, the departure of the *Midge*, which had been ordered away, has been postponed.

The *China Mail* understood that the Hon. E. L. O'Malley, the Attorney-General, would leave Hongkong on leave of absence, by the French mail on Tuesday, the 2nd inst. Consequently on his departure, the following changes would take place in the Judicial Department:—Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, the present Registrar of the Supreme Court, would become Acting Attorney General; Mr. A. G. Wise, Police Magistrate, would again take up the duties of Registrar, and M. E. Mackean will fill his place on the Bench.

The British cruiser *Leander*, Capt. Martin J. Dunlop, arrived in Hongkong on the 23rd February from Singapore and Home, to augment the British squadron on the station. She is a vessel of 3,750 tons, her engines are of 5,000-horse power, and she carries 10 guns. She is the fastest vessel on the station.

The *Bertie Bigelow*, from New York to Shanghai, which we recently reported as having put into S. Thomas for repairs, lost her mizzen-mast and was leaking, besides having had her deck swept and her boats carried away.

The Union Line steamer *Rhodora* arrived at Foochow on the 1st instant from London. She had on board guns and machinery, some of the packages weighing from four up to twelve tons. In consequence of the heavy nature of her cargo, some difficulty would be experienced in discharging it, as she could not get under the Arsenal shoers without grounding. The alternative that suggested itself to the Captain was to rig a derrick on board, get a gunboat alongside and discharge into her. The *Rhodora* will come on to Shanghai afterwards with the balance of her cargo.

The British barque *River Nith* arrived at Shanghai on the 6th instant. She reports as follows:—The *River Nith* left Glasgow on the 26th September and had variable weather till the Equator which was crossed on 6th November, forty-one days out. Then had strong S. E. Trades to 22° S. From thence Northerly, N.W. and Westerly breezes to 39° S. in which latitude the Easting was run down. Passed through the Pit's and Gilolo Passages on the 18th and 21st January respectively, with very light winds and calms. From thence to Foochow Passage had light N.E. winds and fine weather; up the China Sea variable winds and weather, terminating with continuous rain and fogs to port. She arrived at Woozung on the 5th instant.

Captain Stout, formerly of the *Whaon*, has been appointed to the command of the Japanese steamer *Hideyoshi Maru*.

Says the *Daily Press*:—The report that there had been much excitement in Canton in consequence of the news of the outbreak of fresh Anti-Chinese riots in California is not correct. The populace are perfectly peaceful, and no indication of an anti-foreign spirit has been manifested since the issue by the Viceroy of a proclamation warning the people not to insult or offend foreign visitors, consequent on an insult recently directed at a lady.

The Correspondent of the *China Mail* at Canton says that sulphur has been found in abundance in the Lienchow district, some 20 miles North of Canton. Specimens brought to Canton show the sulphur to be of superior quality, and some of it has already been used in the manufacture of gunpowder. The Correspondent hears that a company has been formed to work the sulphur mines. It has been long known that Lienchow is one of the districts rich in minerals, especially in coal.

The *Daily Press* has this:—The province of Binh Dinh is certainly very far from being pacified. When the German steamer *Johann* left Quinhon, fighting was still going on in the immediate vicinity of the town, and the King's troops were burning several villages defended by the Catholic Annamites.

At a meeting of the Lee Yuen Sugar Refining Co., Hongkong, it was resolved to

win-1 up the Company, and Messrs. A. Johnston, Lau Wai Chuen and Li King Ting were appointed liquidators, with power to dispose of the property as they think best.

In the Indo-China papers a telegram appears to the effect that M. Dillon and M. Vial have been appointed Ministers Resident at Huế and Hanoi respectively. The first of these gentlemen is a Consul General acting as French Consul at Tientsin. About twenty years ago there was a lieutenant in the French navy named Vial, who was lent to the Colonial Government and appointed Director of Native Affairs in Cochinchina. It is probably this gentleman who is referred to in the telegram.

According to Mr. Edward Atkinson, the railway property in the United States constitutes one-fifth of the accumulated capital of the country, gives employment to 650,000 people and moves annually 400,000,000 tons of freight, one-half of which is fuel and food, and so cheaply that the Massachusetts mechanic can now procure the transportation of a year's supply of food from a distance of 1,000 miles for the proceeds of one day's labour. We recommend Peking to study this last paragraph carefully, before the next famine carries off its millions, because food cannot be transported to them except at an impossible expense.

The *Economiste Français* says: There is no reason to fear that the engineers, sent out by the French syndicate, formed as we stated the other day to offer a loan of £32,000,000 for the same purpose as the German syndicate with their offer of £35,000,000 have on hand—will arrive in China too late to offset the efforts of their German competitors. French anxiety, it is urged, ought to be allayed by the reflection that far from being late, France is by a long time the first in the field, an important French house, which has had relations with China for a considerable number of years past having more than a year ago formed a syndicate, which leaves nothing to be desired either as regards the importance of the firms represented in it, or as regards the representative actually in China. The last named gentleman is an old official, who was in the service of China before the last war, and who has been previously in communication with Li Hung-chang six months past. We have no doubt, continues the French journal, that our countryman, fully versed in Chinese habits, and on friendly terms with the highest mandarins, will be able successfully to compete with his rivals. The *Economiste* adds that facts will prove the success of the syndicate in question is all the more certain because of the reserve which has hitherto been maintained.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—Travelling bazaars might fitly be associated with the commercial Museums. The Germans are now considering the advisability of following an example set on a small scale by the Italian Government six or seven years ago—that of sending a ship on a voyage to the ports of undeveloped countries, laden with all the products of the national industry, in order that new markets may be secured. Why should not British manufacturers and traders join to send trade bazaars around the world? These travelling trade bazaars might be combined with the pleasure voyages around the world which we find so freely advertised. People in search of pleasure might even be offered reduced terms on condition that they assisted by entertainments, courtesies, and otherwise, in the creation of a furor of interest at the various ports of call. The idea of a travelling bazaar need not be confined to a steamship; there is no reason why a body of manufacturers and traders in different lines should not combine to send caravans into the new countries of which we are hearing so much. The notion need not be laughed out of court—at any rate at such a time as the present.

Miscellaneous Articles.**FREE WATER IN SHANGHAI.**

FOR many years after the opening of this port the Settlement was more like a pleasant village than a place of trade. There were, it is true, scores of ships in the river; jetties where goods and produce were handled by hordes of busy and groaning coolies who made day hideous, and innumerable outward and visible signs of an active commerce, but these all seemed more or less an anachronism here. The residences of merchants had something of a stately look, standing back from pleasant streets, that were not unlike suburban lanes at home; and surrounded by compounds on many of which fine old trees threw their pleasant shade. All that has vanished, and with the open spaces much that made for health. In place of it we have a Settlement covered in large parts by Chinese houses, and the quarters where foreigners reside wear a much more work-a-day look than in the old times. The change in this respect has been profitable; it has not been pleasant; it has brought with it dangers; and we have not sufficiently guarded against these. In the Reports of the Health Officer and in the annual Report of the Surgeon to the Hospital we find serious references made of late years to the prevalence in the autumn months of cholera among us and our Chinese neighbours. Speaking under correction, we have a notion that Asiatic cholera was formerly unknown among the Chinese, or said by the early doctors and residents here to be unknown. There is now no doubt about its carrying off every year hundreds perhaps thousands of the natives who live at our elbows. Now, while we acknowledge that the Health Officer shows once a year at least that improved sanitation will do much to prevent outbreaks of cholera, we are certain the community does not do everything in its power to guard the health of the Settlement. More firmness should be shown by the Council in insisting on greater cleanliness in the Chinese quarters. A free supply of water—such as is now provided in the French Settlement—would do much good, and in the negotiations between the Council and the Water Works Company, which will no doubt soon be entered on, these should comprise an adequate supply of free water. We cannot afford to let cholera have the chance of running its course among us. If it broke out in an especially unhealthy season it might sweep away thousands of victims, and no one would be safe. In some respects the climate of Shanghai resembles that of Italy; there are fierce summer heat and great winter cold in both countries. The habits of the Chinese resemble to a great extent the habits of the lower classes of Italians. There has lately occurred a cholera scare in the south of Italy, and the Italian

Ministry has devised a policy to meet the approach of the epidemic, the marrow of which is given elsewhere. We commend the perusal of its war programme against the deadly but easily encountered enemy to our municipal rulers and to the public. "Cholera," we read, "to be repulsed must be attacked in its winter quarters, before it has time to call up its auxiliaries and reserves in the great heat. Let the sanitary conditions which starve it out be in full force at the time when it is least formidable." The sound common sense of this needs no advocacy; all that is required here is that it should be put into practice. The benefits we should derive from activity in sanitation would not be restricted to a decrease in cholera, but would extend to other diseases, which in the summer and autumn assail our health. Very probably free water would work a sufficiently great change in the habits of the Settlement Chinese, to prevent or at least diminish those dangers. When the intelligent Chinese see us spending money to encourage cleanliness of living among natives of meaner understanding, they will see that there is more in the gospel of cleanliness than is dreamt of in their philosophy. Anyway, the experiment is worth trying for our own sakes.

BONDED WAREHOUSES.

THE question of the establishment of Bonded Warehouses in Shanghai has almost been lost sight of in recent years. But in 1869 the Chamber of Commerce entered into an active correspondence on the subject with the Inspector-General and with the Commissioner of Customs at this port. The result was that the Inspector-General assented to the formation of bonded warehouses in Shanghai, on certain conditions, which were not quite acceptable to the Chamber. The Chairman said, at the meeting of members held on the 7th of May, that "the system of bonded warehouses would in some instances be a great advantage;" the registration fee suggested by the Customs was, however, considered too high. But the change which has since taken place in the manner of warehousing goods here, by the increased use of the public wharves as warehouses, would, to a great extent, do away with the necessity of many licenses being taken out by merchants. Besides, the amount of the license fee could be discussed anew with the Customs. We cite the action of the Chamber of Commerce so long ago as 1869, to show that its members were then in favour of a bonded warehouse system being established here. In the Supplementary Convention between Germany and China of 1880, Article III provides that "the Chinese Commissioner of Customs, and the other competent authorities, shall, after agreeing upon the necessary regulations, themselves take measures for the establishment of bonded warehouses in all the open ports of China, in which they

are required in the interests of commerce, and where local circumstances would admit of such an arrangement being made." In the special stipulations to the Convention it is provided that "an experiment to ascertain whether bonded warehouses can be established in the Chinese open ports, shall be first made at Shanghai." The Customs Director here, that is, the Tao-t'ai and the Customs Inspector-General are to draw up forthwith proper regulations suited to the local circumstances, and then proceed to the establishment of bonded warehouses. We quote this to show that six years ago the Chinese statesmen assented to bonded warehouses being established at this port; and we know of nothing to lead us to believe that they have since changed their minds in this respect. And the benefit which bonded warehouses would confer on all traders are so evident, that Herr von Brandt cannot, we should think, have seen any reason to doubt the utility and importance of the clauses we have quoted, being put into force.

It may appear somewhat unnecessary that we should now allude to what was formerly supposed to be the chief objection on the part of the Chinese authorities to bonded warehouses; that their revenue would suffer in some measure from the delay in payment of the import duties. There was more in that objection in 1869 than there is now. Since then the opening of the Suez canal has effected enormous changes in eastern trade. Profits have been so much reduced that merchants are now obliged to turn over money as often as possible, in order to make their business pay. It is rarely, and only under extraordinary circumstances, that importers now hold goods for a considerable time, whereas formerly the prospects of the market, or instructions from home, or other reasons, induced merchants to keep their goods unsold, sometimes for lengthened periods. Now-a-days large quantities of goods are sold "to arrive," occasionally before the cloth has been woven in Lancashire. Such imports are taken delivery of soon after they come here, and, the duties on them are at once collected. The course of modern trade is always tending to the rapid passing of commodities from first hands into those of consumers, or, at least, into the consuming districts. But notwithstanding the rapidity with which goods are now moved from here, the stock of goods held by importers, and on which duties have been paid, is on the average as large as it was fifteen or sixteen years ago, while diminished profits and seriously decreased values make the levy of duties before the goods are paid for by the native buyers a more serious impost on trade than it was formerly. All this is perfectly well known to the Inspector-General; on whose advice in such a matter the Tsung-li yamen will no doubt depend. He, doubtless, will also see that the quick turn over of

goods now-a-days lessens whatever loss the Customs revenue might sustain from delay in the collection of the duties, though we do not think that should be taken into account by the Tsung-li Yamén or the Customs. A mercantile firm might reckon the loss of interest in their operations, but to a large Government department it is not worth consideration.

It is highly probable that a considerable increase in trade would follow the abolition of the present system. Producers all over the world are anxiously looking round for new markets for their wares, and we can quite conceive that many merchants on this side would hesitate to receive "trial" consignments on which the duty must be paid at once. In this way the expansion of the China trade is liable to be hindered, but by the import of new articles which might be expected to follow the adoption of the liberal policy we advocate, a very considerable benefit to the Customs revenue would follow. It would be good policy on the part of the Chinese Government to act liberally with foreigners in this matter, as the more facilities are given to merchants the larger trade will become. A more fully developed import trade would cause a greater demand for the products of China, and improve the condition of the country. It would be to the interest of foreign merchants that they should buy here as much as they sell, and their ability to buy increases with every additional article they are able to sell. The interests of foreigners and Chinese thus become identical, and we hope that this will be perceived at Peking, alike by the Tsung-li Yamén, and by the Ministers of all the Powers.

OPIMUM LEKIN.

ALTHOUGH there is every ground for believing that the Opium Convention has been ratified, and that consequently we shall have no more trouble about Lekin, it is necessary to notice one or two points in Mr. Drummond's letter to us of the 5th instant. We do so simply to prevent people at a distance from being misled. They naturally take for granted the statements which appear in the papers supported by the name of a resident of position here, by other assertions of the same kind, and by the vague opinion which we know exists that a great deal of smuggling is carried on, to the injury of the Chinese Government, which the community is in a position to stop if it chose to do so. These allegations are apt to find their way into newspapers published in other places, and to be made use of to the prejudice of the residents in this Settlement. People elsewhere have no means of judging of the accuracy of such statements as those in Mr. Drummond's letter. And as there is something more than a prejudice against the opium trade spreading in the world, those persons who aid societies which are openly opposed to it are very likely to seize upon any thing which would tell against

the character of merchants and others in Shanghai where so much of the traffic is carried on. It is therefore needful that a correct statement as regards Lekin here should be placed on record. Our Treaty with China of 1860 provides that an import duty of Taels 30 per chest of opium shall be levied; this has always been paid. In addition to this a tax of Taels 30, sanctioned by no Treaty, has been collected on a very large proportion of the opium landed here. This latter charge has been tacitly acquiesced in by the trade, and was necessary, it was alleged by the Tsung-li yamen, on account of the impoverished condition of the Empire after the Taiping rebellion. This was the ground on which all Lekin was imposed by the native authorities. The recent attempt to collect Taels 86 per chest had no sanction whatever under any treaty between England and China; it was simply an attempt to anticipate the coming in force of the Convention of last year, which was not to come into force until the Chinese Government had brought the other Treaty Powers to conform to the Article in it regarding opium. No formal conformation by the other Treaty powers has yet been made, therefore no increase in the lekín or duty on opium is legal, and it follows that there could be no smuggling on the part of those who paid the stipulated duty of Taels 30 per chest. It is not imputed to any one here that that duty was not paid, in point of fact, we may say for the benefit of people unacquainted with the Customs system, that payment could not be evaded. If any smuggling takes place into the country, of a part of the opium landed in the manner Mr. Drummond alludes to, we, as a community have nothing to do with that, we do not further or protect the smugglers or their trade in any way, and if such a traffic exists the Chinese authorities are perfectly competent to deal with it outside the limits of Shanghai. In doing so the Municipal authorities would certainly lend them all legal assistance within the Settlement; when the existence of smuggling here is proved. That some smuggling will go on is inevitable; the high duty fixed by the Convention invites it; but it will probably never be much more than the smuggling of tobacco into England. If the Chinese desire to increase their revenue from opium why do they not take proper measures to suppress the smuggling of native opium into this Settlement and, doubtless, elsewhere. For some time past we are informed that from one-half to two-thirds of all the opium consumed here is smuggled native drug chiefly brought by the passengers in the steamers from Hankow. The Chinese authorities cannot or do not suppress that illicit trade, which is constantly increasing, and yet they require us to injure our own interests by stopping, or permitting their myrmidons to stop, the much smaller illicit transport of foreign

opium beyond this Settlement. To sanction the impost of Tls. 86 per chest of opium would be to recognize the opium lekín farmers and those behind them as new Treaty or Convention makers between China and Foreign Powers.

THE CONQUEST OF BURMA.

THE official correspondence relative to Burma was laid before Parliament on the 21st January. It embraces the period since the accession of Theebaw, and a despatch to Lord Dufferin from the Secretary of State for India gives a brief history of the misgovernment and bad faith towards England of the late Kings. When Theebaw became King the relations between the Government of India and that of Mandalay were unsatisfactory; life and property within Burmese territory were insecure; applications for redress of wrongs against British subject were disregarded; treaties were not respected; and British commercial interests in the Irrawaddy valley were seriously injured. That is the beginning of what we may call the indictment of former Burmese rulers. An improvement was hoped for from the young King who had been educated into some knowledge of Western people and of what good government should be. But he early manifested a dislike to the British alliance; he permitted outrages on Englishmen to go unpunished; his ministers behaved with outrageous insolence to the British Resident, who was denied personal access to the King, until his position became so difficult that the Government of India deemed it prudent to withdraw him from Mandalay in October 1879. The Government of Burma grew more hostile after that; an unprovoked attack on a British steamer on the Irrawaddy was left unpunished, and the demands for justice of the Indian Government were ill received by the King. Soon afterwards Theebaw sent an Envoy to British Burma to propose new Treaty relations with India, but the King's overtures were found so insincere and the provisions of the draft instrument borne by the Envoy so illusory that the Envoy was not allowed to proceed to Rangoon. By 1882 the state of affairs as described by Lord Raudolph Churchill was this:—"The relations between the two Governments remained at a deadlock; fresh atrocities took place at Mandalay; bands of armed dacoits roamed at will; raids were made into British territory; Upper Burmah became completely disorganized." Early in the spring of 1882 an Envoy was sent from Mandalay to India, and notwithstanding all that had previously passed he was well received by Lord Ripon. Theebaw, however, suddenly recalled his Envoy. The Court of Ava, the despatch says, "developed its policy of menace and hostility to the Government of India by the despatch of a mission to Europe, seeking alliances with foreign Powers for the purpose of

attaining political and commercial arrangements which could not but conflict very seriously with British interests and lead to intrigues by foreign agents at Mandalay, the initiation even of which Her Majesty's Government could not for a moment tolerate." There is the proper ring in this sentence. The British Government would afford to submit to much provocation as long as the Kingdom of Ava remained in an isolated position, but it became impossible for it to view the new situation without considerable anxiety. Afterwards there occurred the imposition of what is called in the despatch a proposterous and ruinous fine on a British Company trading in Upper Burma, and the King's rejection of the Viceroy's offer to refer the matter in dispute to arbitration. But for some considerable time before this there had been rumours of a disquieting nature afloat.

Lord Dufferin cautiously says in a despatch to the Secretary of State that "unmistakeable indications were not wanting that the Government of Mandalay was bent upon welcoming to the Upper Valley of the Irrawaddy extraneous influences, which if allowed to become established and dominant, could not fail at some future time to trouble the political tranquillity of British Burma." And the Commissioner in British Burma speaks more plainly when he says that, "French Agents are trying to establish themselves strongly at Mandalay, with a view of joining hands at some future time with some French possessions on the upper reaches of the Red River." It was time to act. An ultimatum was sent to Theebaw and troops were concurrently despatched from India to Rangoon to convince the King that the Indian Government was in earnest. What happened is in the memory of our readers, and in the opinion of Lord Randolph Churchill, the annexation of Burma to the dominions of Her Majesty was the inevitable result of the deposition of King Theebaw. The Secretary of State leaves to Lord Dufferin a large discretion in the precise methods by which he may think proper to re-organize the government of Upper Burma. The policy of Lord Salisbury's Ministry in its dealings with the Court of Ava has met with general approval in England and India. Mr. Gladstone did not venture in his speech on the Address to do more than indicate that he considered the principle of a Government intervening with force of arms to recover debts due to its subjects in a foreign country, a dangerous one. Few will gainsay that opinion, but when the previous history of the conduct of Theebaw to the Indian Government is recalled, it will be admitted that his flagrant seizure of the property of the Trading Company was but the culminating outrage, and England could bear no more. It is certain that the annexation of their country will be a great gain to the Burmese, and to the Shans; and we hope that things

may be so directed in London and Peking that this Empire will also benefit by its borders being brought nearer to those of our Indian Empire.

MARRIAGE BY ADVERTISEMENT.

It is now nearly a year since we drew attention to the matrimonial wants of certain residents in China, as set forth in that remarkable journal, *The Matrimonial News and Special Advertiser*. We find this paper still apparently flourishing, for the benefit of those bachelors and spinsters who are so unfortunate as to have no friends and acquaintances, from among whom they may choose their partner for life in the orderly and quiet manner prevalent among civilised people. The *News* is devoted, on its own showing, "to the Promotion of Marriage and conjugal felicity." It may succeed in promoting marriage, but it would not be amiss if the Editor would occasionally print testimonials from people who had been brought together by its agency, to prove that its efforts had resulted in conjugal felicity. Possibly the unions procured by this somewhat sordid means may turn out on the average as well as those which have been incited and arranged in the more accepted ways; for marriage is a lottery at best, as we know. The Editor enlarges on the desirability of the existence of his paper, because "civilisation combined with the cold formalities of Society and the rules of etiquette, imposes such restrictions on the sexes, that there are thousands of marriageable men and women of all ages,"—we wonder what are the editor's ideas of the limits of marriageable age,—"capable of making each other happy, who never have a chance of meeting, either in town or country." When this journal was first started, it was regarded as a prolonged hoax; but as the business which it represents has now been established over thirty years, and the *News* itself over fifteen years, it is fair to assume that the enterprise is a genuine one, and that in the fifteen years, there has been an average of about ten people a week willing to trust the happiness and comfort of their lives to consorts selected by means of a newspaper advertisement. In the number before us, that for 2nd January last, there are more than seven pages of advertisements from people of both sexes and all ages, with incomes ranging from nothing to £5,000 a year. As money is now-a-days one of the first considerations, if not the first, we extract the following advertisement from a lady who should have no difficulty in finding a husband. It will be seen that she makes no stipulations:—

Matrimony.—A Lady, 22, tall, fair, and very handsome, with £5,000 a year, wishes to marry. Address Clara, under cover to the Editor M.N., 302 Strand.

Nor should the hero of the following, if his income of some thousands has aught but a mythical existence, have to wait long for a responsive heart:—

A Gentleman, aged 60, very tall, with more than average good appearance, genial

temper, and who believes he could make any reasonable woman happy, wants to marry. He has an income of some thousands a year, handsome town and country residences, keeps several horses and carriages, and would make a good husband. Editor has address.

The number of handsome young men without means, and very fair but portionless girls, who wish to have their burden of life assumed by a consort is endless. We have only room for three or four specimens of their demands, but it is noticeable that the gentlemen, with the caution of the sex, are much more given to requiring that the answerer shall have an income, than the ladies are:—

A lady, tall, young and handsome, wishes to marry and have a home of her own; she is amiable, and would make a bright and happy home for any man. Editor has address.

A gentleman of good family, age 25, tall, and good looking, only partner in a good City firm, will be glad to meet with a lady of means with a view to marriage. Editor has address.

Maudie, 19 years of age, beautiful girl, medium height, fair, blue eyes, exquisite and well defined features, amiable disposition, and talented, would make a loving wife, desires to correspond with a young gentleman aged about 23 of medium height, not stout, brown hair and moustache, must have a knowledge of foreign languages, money no object. Address M. E., care of Editor. N.B.—This advertisement is genuine.

I wish to reply to Bessie (8730, Dec. 19), I am 25, appear much younger; I have been a Master for Mathematics, Greek, &c., at several grammar schools; my phrenology as given by Odell, Charing-cross, is, too, charitable, bold, poetical, loving, born to command. Editor has address.

The phrenology of the last advertiser, as given by Odell, is rather mixed. It would be sad for Bessie if he turned out to be too "born to command." Some one, probably Thackeray, writing of the advertisements in the London daily papers of servants wanting places and masters and mistresses at the same time wanting servants, reflects that the cookless mistresses and the mistressless cooks, the gentlemen requiring valets and the valets out of place, will most likely never come together. It would seem as if the same happened to these aspirants to marriage. And as some hold that for every soul in each man there is another soul in a woman, and that an unhappy fate may keep them apart for ever, incomplete, and yearning for the other half, it would almost seem as if the ladies and gentlemen who advertise their possessions and charms are mostly of those to whom an unkind destiny has not, even after many advertisements, allowed the psychic complements to mingle.

The possession of a title evidently does not always ensure a sufficient circle of acquaintance, for more than one counters in her own right advertises for a husband, while peers are apparently sufficiently run after. One advertisement is very touching. It is from a widowed Countess of ancient title with only £150 a year, but with every moral excellence, who desires with God's blessing to get a second husband "car-

ing more for unalloyed affection and untiring devotion than for youth and fortune with a wife." She demands a personal interview, but no photographs, "moral worth being the first consideration." Perhaps the retired Lieutenant-Colonel who follows would suit her; and he must be getting impatient, as he has been advertising at least ever since last summer:—

A retired Lieut.-Colonel, widower, without encumbrances, a christian man, Church of England, sufficient means, age 48, eyes dark blue, hair and moustaches brown, medium height, fresh complexion, and said to be good looking, with even temper, and first class state of mind and body, is again game to give himself away to a worthy christian woman, who would in weal and woe, love, honour, and obey him, in addition to having at all times, a kind word and sweet smile for the dear old boy, who would rest assured, love, honour, and comfort, with God's help."

Whoever may get him, even if she be tall and fair and have fifty thousand a year with no incumbrances, not even a mother, this paragon will be given away. We have no room for more. Statistics are inexorable, and it makes one's heart bleed to find that in this one number there are five hundred advertisements, and that as there are on an average only ten new ones a week, every applicant for matrimony must tempt fortune for a year. The most stringent rules and regulations are enforced by the Editor to secure that the proposals shall be strictly honourable; and a lady advertiser is not allowed to open correspondence with a gentleman, or vice versa, until "particulars of applicant's position (in confidence)" have been sent to the Editor, "as a guarantee of honourable intentions and good faith." Last of all is one piece of information that may be valuable to the outside world, as well as to the supporters of the *Matrimonial News*: the hint that courtship and marriage are difficult subjects is well given:—

The Editor will answer questions by letter or give advice in the columns of the paper on any point relating to courtship or marriage, or any other difficult subject, for 12 stamps.

THE ENGLISH-MAIL PAPERS.

THE situation has so changed in England since the newspapers just received were published, that their political articles seem perhaps duller than they really are. But among those we have read there is nothing that ever could have been very striking. Editors were writing on the day before the battle; and did not know what to say. Irish affairs were uppermost in the minds of all politicians, and what conscientious Radical could write on them, or on any subject, while Mr. Gladstone had not given a cue. The Conservatives on the other hand were evidently depressed by the failure of their conciliatory policy; boycotting was rampant, the Celtic provinces of Ireland were unsafe for men who would not swallow the Parnellite creed, or collected rents, or took out writs against debtors, or in a general way had anything which patriotic neighbours coveted. The *Spectator* while admitting the attractiveness of the scheme for buying out the landlords, to which we alluded last week, is rather alarmed by certain possibilities that might follow its adoption. It asks why should

not Scotland be treated in the same way and her re-constituted parliament be invested with the half rent to be expended on Scotch civil government? Scotch tenants, it goes on, would like that very much. In another article the dangers of the Liberal party taking power while not only its leaders but their followers are divided in opinion, are treated; and on the whole reasonably. The state of Eastern Europe is considered, and the *Spectator* is of opinion that the extensive preparations for war made by the Greek Government has excited the national feeling so much that it dare not recede; as, if it did, revolutionary committees would attack the Turkish troops and compel the Ministry at Athens to support them. The *Saturday* says on the Eastern question:—

It is no longer a question of Oppressed v. Oppressor; it is a question of rivals clamouring and squabbling over the division of spoil. The more candid ethnologists confess that the mixture of races in Macedonia makes its division between Bulgaria and Greece an almost insoluble problem, and the difficulty is nearly, if not quite, as great in regard to Epirus and the West as with regard to Macedonia and the West. When matters have come to such a pitch that a State like Greece, which has armed itself and threatened its neighbours without the shadow of a grievance, is apparently considered not to take up a very unreasonable position in declining to disarm without some sort of compensation for the "sacrifice," the general political top-sy-turviness has evidently reached its completest point of inversion.

And it declares that there never can be any chance of peace in the Balkan Peninsula, but, on the contrary, continual danger of war in Europe, until Greece, Servia, Bulgaria and the rest are made to understand that such things as breaches of the peace, constitute not claims to compensation, but grounds for severe and speedy chastisement. As bearing on the state of Eastern Europe we note that the *Spectator* draws attention to the increasing tension between the Slav and German races. It says that the Czech and German deputies in the Austrian Parliament almost came to blows in the previous week. Of articles having a political bearing but not dealing with any special subject of party warfare, the *Saturday* supplies several, having merit from their shortness. It chides Mr. Gladstone for his strictures on the leisured rich, which, it says, were either deliberality or unconsciously levelled against the institution of private property; which is an unfair wresting of his words from their obvious meaning. A little further on the *Saturday* unconsciously, we suppose, admits that the leisured class is indifferent to their duties by showing that they have not subscribed as they ought to the Gordon Boys' Home. An article in the *Spectator* deals with the new 'Asiatic Quarterly' and is worth reading. It accuses the London press and the English democracy of being ignorant of Asia and rather preferring to remain in that condition, trusting the guidance of their opinions on Eastern affairs to the Government and a few experts. The *Spectator* itself betrays some little ignorance of matters in the East, when it says, in writing of the influence of Englishmen being paramount there, that not one thousand tons of coals is procurable in the East without a bargain with an Englishman. The *Saturday* has many pleasant articles apart from those on politics and literary criticism. That on Cape Colony informs us that diamonds have in these late days done some good to men, as their mining in Africa has led the natives to work for wages. An article on the French navy shows, on the authority of the secretary of the new Minister of Marine, that these things are not better managed in France than in England. It is painful to learn that the French naval service is given up to nepotism, favouritism, and mismanagement. The paper on Buddhist Ec-

centricities in Burma is amusing and good, and the one on certain Radical leaders is in the *Saturday* vein and smart. Gourmets will find the means of passing a pleasant quarter of an hour in reading "Cavaas Backs," which treats of American cooking, and "St. Emilion," in which the old town and the claret of the district are appreciatively dealt with. The wine has been called the Burgundy of the Bordeaux country, it gains in excellence up to ten years in bottle, is in perfection up to twenty years of age and will last forty or fifty. The *Pall Mall Budget* contains "My First Imprisonment" by the Editor, which will make some people hope that his first experience in that way will not be his last. "Among the Wild Geese" describes a shooting raid on these wary birds, doing so in an interesting manner, and it is much better illustrated than is usual in this paper. The same cannot be said of the illustrations to the article on the opening of the Mersey tunnel, which is a dry professional-scientific description of the works. The *Budget* is scarcely redeemed from complete dullness by the paper on Sir John Lubbock's selection of the Best Hundred Books to be read. The *Pall Mall* sent the list drawn up by Sir John to various more or less eminent people. The Prince of Wales, or at least his Secretary, thinks the list could hardly be improved upon, but suggests that Dryden should be added. Mr. Gladstone, on the inevitable post card, hands criticism on the list over to Lord Acton, "a person of vast reading," who has framed a list of this kind, and the Editor promises to draw his Lordship, if possible. Mr. Ruskin returns the list, "putting my pen lightly through the needless—and blottesquely through the rubbish and poison of Sir John's list—I leave enough for a life's liberal reading." The needless comprise all theological and religious works, except the Holy Living and Dying, all non-Christian moralists and all Eastern poetry. The blottesquely dealt with include Gibbon, Voltaire, Hume and another whose name is utterly expunged, evidently in a fine frenzy of wrath, and all philosophy but Bacon's. In poetry and general literature he places as needless Southey, Longfellow and Swift—the Gulliver,—Hume, Macaulay and Emerson, while of Carlyle he would have "every thing." In modern fiction, Thackeray, George Eliot, Kingsley and Lytton are needless, Dickens is retained, and of Scott he would have "every word." The *Spectator* has an article on Sir John Lubbock's choice of books the key of which may be gathered from one of the first sentences in it:—"It is by no means essential that a book should be exactly good, so long as it reflects pretty accurately the ignorance and prejudice and errors of the world which it delineates. Again: "it is delightful to know Charley Bates and the Artful Dodger. It is not delightful to know the ordinary young thief." And again: "certainly you have more of the dusty levels of life from a wide superficial knowledge of books which are destined to be forgotten, than from a thorough mastery of the books destined to be immortal." We may anticipate that many Literary and Debating societies all over the world will have a good deal to say about the Hundred Best Books. Both the *Saturday* and *Spectator* criticise Miss Thackeray's new novel 'Mrs. Dymond,' and neither very enthusiastically. The former paper hits off her weakness when it says that "we don't take a very burning interest in her characters, and don't care very much what becomes of them," but both appreciate the skill, the over delicate skill of her manner. No other of the novels criticised this week are much praised; but Miss Mabel Collins' Lord Vanecourts' Daughter is called not bad of its kind, which is sensational, owing to the atrocities of a fine old Seventeenth Century wicked old lord; one of the most venerable and engaging characters in British fiction; and Bonnyborough's New England story, seems

too clever and odd, the characters using a "Liebig's essence of quaintness" in their talk; "At the Red Glove," by Mrs. Macquoid, is called by the *Spectator* the best of all her works.

The *Athenaeum* says of Lord Beaconsfield's Correspondence with his sister that there is not a dull or uninteresting page in the volume. The letters, like a former series, were not written for publication; they are personal, and therefore interesting. Here is a sketch of people who were all notorious in their day, but most of whom are now well nigh forgotten:—

We had a very brilliant reunion at Bulwer's last night. Among the notables were Lords Strafford and Mulgrave, with the latter of whom I had a great deal of conversation; Count D'Orsay, the famous Parisian dandy; there was a large sprinkling of blues—Lady Morgan, Mrs. Norton, L. E. L., &c. Bulwer came up to me, said "There is one blue who insists upon an introduction." "Oh, my dear fellow, I cannot really, the power of repartee has deserted me." "I have pledged myself you must come"; so he led me up to a very sumptuous personage, looking like a full-blown rose, Mrs. Gore. Albany Foulblaque, my critic, was in the room, but I did not see him. . . . The Mr. Hawkins who made a wonderful speech, and who, although he squinted horribly, was the next day voted a Cupidon, and has since lost his beauty by a failure, and many others, whom in this hurry I cannot recall—Charles Villiers, Henry Ellis, &c. I avoided L. E. L., who looked the very personification of Brompton—pink satin dress and white satin shoes, red cheeks, snub nose, and her hair à la Sappho.

The literary announcements are few and of no great interest. Mr. Woolner's poem *Firesias* is in the hands of the printer; Sir Richard Temple has a volume of reprints, *Cosmopolitan Essays*, in the press; Mr. W. A. Clouston is about to contribute to the *Antiquary* a study of *Noddleum* stories; the late Mr. Mortimer Collins' collected poems are in the press; Mr. W. P. Lucy's second volume, the *Gladstone Parliament*, is in a forward state of preparation. An *Oriental Academy* is to be founded at Berlin at the instance of Prince Bismarck.

Outports.

NINGPO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The "oldest inhabitant" has again been requisitioned, this time to testify in regard to the late fall of snow in this region—whether he ever saw so much snow on the ground at once as was witnessed here last Saturday morning. Not having met said "oldest inhabitant" I can't say what his answer may have been—indeed I am a little suspicious of his veracity anyhow—but the fact is, that when we arose last Saturday morning, Feb. 27th, there was one foot of snow on the ground by actual measurement, and nearly all had fallen during the night. Trees suffered severely, some having large branches broken off, and others lying prostrate under the weight of superincumbent snow. As there had already been a fall of over a foot of snow during the last month, there was little expectation of such a sight as greeted our eyes last Saturday morning.

There seems likely to be quite an exodus of foreigners from this place this spring. The Rev. W. J. McKie and family left us last week for a visit to his native land, and I understand Mr. Kopsch, Mr. Innocent and Mr. Davidson expect to leave soon.

Meanwhile, thanks to the untiring efforts of our worthy Commissioner and others, our bond scheme seems to be a *fait accompli*—the scheme, not the bond,—and we have every hope that at no very distant day Ningpo will be in the enjoyment of a promenade surpassed by few of her sister settlements in China.

2nd March.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

We have had heavy falls of snow for seven or eight successive days. People here say that such weather has not been known for the last twenty years. It is all over now, but we are having, instead, a continuous downpour of rain. During this cold and inclement season some members of the community have kindly undertaken to provide one or two free entertainments for the benefit of all. Not many evenings ago we had some amateur theatricals and a concert. On Tuesday night last, the Rev. J. R. Goddard delivered a lecture on "Half an hour with an electric machine," illustrated with apparatus by Major Watson. The lecturer narrated in a most interesting way the steps which led to the discovery of electricity, and gave an extremely lucid exposition of the principles of its production and operations. The audience showed their appreciation of the lecture, and of Major Watson's illustrations by repeated and hearty rounds of applause. A concert followed in which all nationalities, French, Italian, American and English, were represented, and before 11 o'clock, the assembly dispersed, having spent a most enjoyable evening.

5th March.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

I am sorry to have to report a rather serious disturbance as having taken place at Fat Shan, yesterday. It appears that a party of people, evidently bent on having a row, went, headed by a man who was drunk, or pretended to be so, to a Protestant Chapel, belonging to an English Missionary Society, and rudely interrupted the service that was going on at the time. The result of the disturbance created is such as to have caused an appeal to be made to the Viceroy by H.B.M.'s Consul, for the protection of the life and property of the Missionaries and Christians. It is but fair to state that the Viceroy has taken the necessary steps for the arrest of the offenders and the punishment of the guilty, H.E. declaring that he would not tolerate such proceedings under his rule though he had but another hour of power.

It is pleasant for me to record another fact which is a sure indication of the Viceroy's progressive policy—that is, the establishment of an Hydrographical or Coast Survey Office, at Huang-pu, to-day. Fang, a Tao-tai of the *Hou-pu*, or Expectancy Staff, in Kuang-si, serving here under the Viceroy's orders, has been sent down to open such a place. It is called by the Chinese the Hai Tu Chü. Messrs. Chü and Liu, recommended to the Viceroy Chang by the Tao-tai Shao, of Shanghai, have been appointed the first surveyors or chart-makers.

26th February.

Peking Gazette.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTES.

MEMORIAL TO THE TAO-T'AI OF FORMOSA.

21st, 22nd December.

The Memorialists have to report that having arrived in North Formosa on their mission of enquiry, they wrote to Liu Ming-ch'uan, Governor of Fuhkien, to collect all the papers connected with the case, and forward them to Memorialists, together with the persons of Liu Ao and his accomplices, Kao T'eng-yü, Provincial Commander-in-chief, who has been suspended; Liu T'ê-fu a First Captain; Hu P'ei-tzu a Sub-Prefect; Chou Chih-k'an a District Magistrate; and the witnesses in the case.

In due course of time Memorialists received a despatch from the Governor, informing them that on the 24th of July he had had the honour to receive a Decree

commanding that, in accordance with the proposal contained in his Memorial denouncing Liu Ao, Tao-t'ai of T'aiwan, for peculation and other misdemeanours enumerated in detail therein, the said Liu is to be deprived of his post and brought to trial; and further ordering him, the Governor, to depute officers to take the Tao-t'ai into their custody, until the arrival in the Province of high officers commissioned by the Emperor to hold an enquiry into the case; while other officers of ability and honesty were to be sent to the Tao-t'ai's official residence to seize all the property found there.

Upon receipt of this communication, the Memorialists instructed their staff to institute a thorough enquiry into the circumstances of the case, and called upon Ch'ên Ming-chih, the Acting Tao-t'ai of T'aiwan for a true and detailed report on the several counts of the original indictment.

After a careful examination of the reports which have been laid before them, the Memorialists have established the following facts, viz:—with reference to the statement, made in the indictment, that, in addition to the sums deducted by Liu Ao from the monthly pay of the thirty battalions in Formosa, issued to the orders of the commanding officers, each battalion had to refund 330 taels out of the allowance made for hiring camp-followers; and, to the allegation that Colonel Yao Hsiu-fang and the other commanders of brigades never had an opportunity of handling any of the funds expended on the maintenance of the troops, beyond their monthly allowances of forty or fifty taels, because Liu Ao monopolised the entire control, issuing the pay from his accountancy and managing the general expenditure as well as the economies caused by the occurrence of vacancies in the ranks. And again, referring to the further accusations, that Liu Ao, at a cost of over 12,000 taels only turned out 89 ready made powder mines from his arsenals; that Kao T'eng-yü had spent 200,000 taels in repairing the barracks, but that the work was still unfinished; that Li Fe-fu pocketed part of the pay of the troops, who have already complained of this treatment; and that Hu P'ei-tzu, a long time head of the Military Store Department, and Chou Chih-k'an formerly director of the Salt Department, together with the others named above, were hand in glove with Liu Ao—the Memorialists have to state as follows:—It is laid down in the Hupei military regulations that the complement of officers and men in a battalion is 505, and the number of camp-followers 192. The commanding officer receives 30 taels a month in allowances; 150 taels are allowed for miscellaneous expenses connected with the battalion; and the pay of a regular camp-follower is 3 taels, while that of a lieutenant, non-commissioned officer, and soldier, is not of course the same, but fixed according to their respective rank. In a month of 30 days, the total expenditure for the maintenance of one battalion is about 2,940 taels; from this deductions are made of money spent owing to vacancies in the ranks caused by grants of furlough, dismissals, desertions or deaths, and refunded to the paymaster-general; this is what is meant by "economies caused by vacancies."

As regards the refunds out of the pay allowed for camp-followers, Kao T'eng-yü deposed on examination that Liu Ao, in view of the seriousness of the situation, drafted 80 camp-followers out of each battalion, with whom he formed a separate battalion for general service. Kao T'eng-yü himself was given the command of it in addition to his own battalions and an addition of six-tenths of a tael was made to the regular pay of 3 taels per man. The total expenditure incurred in allowances to officers, ratings to men, and miscellaneous items was covered by the refunds of pay allowed for camp-followers from each battalion,

without the employment of other public monies. The refunds made by twelve battalions for the three months between 15th Nov. 1884 and 15th of February 18-5 at the rate of a sum equivalent to the pay of 960 men per month, ought to have maintained 800 men a month, and covered the officers' allowances, etc. into the bargain, but only 400 men were employed and they formed one battalion. Su Fêng-ch'iang, an officer who had distinguished himself on active service, was appointed to the command; with Captain Liu Han-nan as second in command.

In the two months from February 15th to April 15th of the present year a further draft of 240 camp-followers was made from two battalions, and in April-May 320 more men were drafted from four battalions. In May-June two battalions were disbanded, so that only 17 remained [from which drafts had been made]. As the number of battalions was constantly undergoing changes, the number of camp-followers drafted out of them into the new battalion fluctuated also, so that its average strength never exceeded 400 odd men. Notwithstanding the latter fact, Kao Têng-yü drew every month from the Paymaster's Department, where he presented an order issued under his seal, a sum equivalent to the pay of all the men drafted from the battalions, and after issuing the sums due in pay, etc. to the new battalion, handed the remainder into Liu Ao's private accountancy. The total amount paid over in this way to Liu Ao during the seven months was 11,654 taels, but not a farthing of this money fell to the share of Kao Têng-yü.

In July of the present year, Liu Ao, fearing an enquiry after his denunciation, and consequent discovery gave Kao Têng-yü a despatch, ante dating it December 1884, instructing him to divide the battalion recently formed with the drafts of camp-followers into two, Su Fêng-ch'iang having command of one, and Liu Han-nan of the other.

Kao Têng-yü further averred "that he had no other connection with the military works outside the west gate of Taiwan except in so far as apportioning the work among the men of the new battalion and superintending its execution; that the money for the purchase of materials all passed through the hands of Lin Chun-p'ei, a graduate by purchase, and that the work had been completed in May-June." [A reference to Chen Ming-chih's report will show that the estimated cost of these works was 19,900 taels, which sum was put into Liu Chun-p'ei's hands to execute the necessary repairs; in proof of this statement there is that gentleman's personal bond, but he has not yet furnished a report of the work done and money spent. The same officer has further stated that after careful examination he has arrived at the conclusion that in the sum of 12,000 taels expended by Liu Ao in connection with the arsenal, there have been no fraudulent surcharges made.

Again, Hu P'ei-tzu deposed that seven years ago he was appointed to the Superintendentcy of the Pay and Supply Department, and in that capacity issued pay for the camp-followers, according to their officially stated number and the number of days they were employed. He certainly had heard that the number of camp-followers actually engaged was less than that fixed by the regulations, but as the management of military matters formed no part of his duties, it was not his province to disclose the fact.

Chou Chih-k'an, District Magistrate of Hêng-ch'un Hs'en, who formerly held, on separate occasions, appointments as Acting District Magistrate of the Taiwan, Hsin-chu Chia-yi Districts, stated on examination that in April-May of the present year he was given the management of the salt Department, an appointment which he lost

in June-July. He never visited the Tao-t'ai's Yamén during his previous official career; for the Magistrates of the outlying Districts have no occasion to do so. He only had the management of the salt Department for two months, and positively was not associated with Liu Ao in any of the frauds of which the latter is accused.

Now to come to the charge of monopolizing the management of military matters. It appears from the evidence of Kao Têng-yü and Yü Hsin-fang, who commanded respectively the "Yüeh" battalion, and the right wing Chên-hai battalion, that the only monies which Liu Ao allowed to reach their hands every month, were a personal allowance of 50 taels each, and another of 40 taels for miscellaneous expenses in each battalion. The rest of the money intended for the battalions was kept in Liu Ao's accountancy; this amounted every month to over 3,000 taels for the "Yüeh," and 1,532 taels for the Chên-hai right wing battalion. Liu Ao when cross examined on this evidence owned to the truth of the charge of monopolizing the control of the battalions; with the money refunded out of the pay allowed for camp-followers, owing to their diminished number, he said, however, that he intended to form a reward fund; but owing to the press of business caused by the war, he never found time to furnish a report or statement of his accounts to the high authorities. The fact that he did not report, (and the records will show that such is the case,) that he was reserving this undistributed pay to form a reward fund, as he alleges he was, proves that it was merely a pretext for appropriating the money to himself; and Kao Têng-yü cannot be exculpated from the charge of connivance, for though he did not share in the plunder, yet he drew the full allowance of pay for Liu Ao and handed over to him the large sums unexpended. Chou Chih-k'an had for a long time been holding acting appointments in outlying districts, and was manager of the Salt Department for only two months; there are sufficient grounds, therefore, for believing his denial of constant intercourse or complicity with Liu Ao. But Au P'ei-tzu is certainly guilty of abetting Liu Ao, for though it was ascertained on his examination there was no intercourse between them, yet he did not disclose a fact which he knew perfectly well, namely that the amount of pay drawn for camp-followers was in excess of that really required.

Taking next the charge that certain deductions made from the pay of the men in the Chên-hai and other battalions and put by for them were never returned to men who went on furlough or to the families of those who died; that the places of the deserters were never filled up, and a refund of the pay unemployed thereby, demanded under the name of pay not spent owing to temporary vacancies in the ranks; that replacing a single man in any of the battalions was attended with innumerable difficulties; and that in July and August, 1884, the strength of these battalions was more than 300 below the nominal footing, the Memorialists have to remark as follows: the system of keeping in reserve a portion of the pay of the troops was introduced by Liu Ao in a set of regulations which he embodied in a report to his superior authority. A deduction of 2 taels was made from the pay of each man, and the money placed in the Pay and Supply Department, and a receipt issued in return to each man. The frequency with which the deduction was made was uncertain, there might be one, two or three in a year, and some years again none at all. Whenever a man went on furlough or died, he or his family could present the receipt at headquarters for identification, and the Pay and Supply Department would then, on being notified of the application, refund the money. There are however no means of discovering

whether or not these applications have been successful in the past.

In the report, which Chen Ming-chih was instructed to furnish it is stated that there are no discrepancies between the amount of reserve pay or of the sums saved owing to temporary vacancies in the ranks, found in the treasury chest, and the amount entered under these items, in the Tao-t'ai's accounts, and that Liu Ao has therefore not been guilty of peculation. And as regards recruiting in the several battalions, that it was quite true that each individual, no matter what the distance might be, had to be sent for inspection to the Tao-t'ai's Yamén, and could not enter the ranks without his approval. The commanders of the battalions had no voice in the matter. The evidence of Liu Tê-fu and others was to the same effect. A certain amount of delay and inconvenience was unavoidable, no matter how much energy was displayed in examining into the recruits' antecedents etc., so as to secure suitable men.

With regard to the number of paper men in the battalions, the acting Tao-t'ai has verified the muster roll in each, with the exception of those which have been transferred to San-t'iao-lan, and finds that in the patrol which formed Liu Ao's body guard the number is 50. In the "Yueh" battalions under Kao Têng-yü it is over 400. In the Chen Hai rear-guard battalion under Li Tê-fu it is between 100 and 150. Kao Têng-yü and the others deposed, however, that immediately after Liu Ao was suspended, they received orders from the Governor of Fukkien to disband all the newly raised local irregulars; and that malaria carried off from 20 to 30 men every month. Owing to their denunciation and the subsequent enquiry, they had not sent in the returns showing the vacancies thus caused, which would account for the absentees when the muster roll was read. From the middle of May to the middle of August they had not drawn any pay for the troops and could not therefore have been engaged in any fraudulent misappropriations of public money. These arguments the Acting Tao-t'ai considered sound, and reasonable enough, but in the face of the fact that the strength of the battalions was not up to the muster, the imputation that their intention was to defraud cannot be rebutted.

Li Tê-fu is certainly not guilty of the charge of keeping back part of the pay of the soldiers, made against him by the private Huang Kuei-hsiang, for a cross-examination of the latter elicited the fact that he was on furlough during the recent military operations in Formosa.

The next count is that the officers in charge of the several battalions were all of them Liu Ao's relations and pupils; as for example that Li Tê-fu and Li Li-kang were brothers of a concubine of his, and that the former unlawfully assumed the title of Captain, while Huang Jui-ch'ing when he succeeded the latter, made good a deficiency in the public monies under Li Li-kang's care, sent him a present of 500 taels, and set aside a sum equivalent to the pay of some 10 odd men, whose places in the ranks were not filled up, for the hire of servants in the Tao-t'ai's Yamén. That the officers of marine for coast defence were all petty officials, and that the land was filled with the murmurings of an oppressed people, who contributed the funds for the maintenance of train bands, and that the marines and garrison troops were far below their nominal strength.

The Memorialists have to submit, with reference to the last named charges, that there is no question as to the right of Li Tê-fu to the title of Captain, for he has produced his commission showing that while serving in Kansu he was promoted step by step to that rank. As regards Li Li-kang the circumstances of his case are as follows:—When he handed over the "Yüeh" left wing battalion to his successor,

Huang Jui-ch'ing, last year, he was unable to refund 161 taels which he had borrowed out of the treasury chest. Accordingly he made over the equivalent value in horses and clothes to Huang Jui-ch'ing who paid the debt for him out of other funds; the sum employed for this purpose has been effected by deductions made from Huang Jui-ch'ing's pay by the Pay and Supply Department. Huang Jui-ch'ing further denies having made Li Li-kang a present of 500 taels. Ch'ên Ming-chih has been unable to discover any proof of the statement that the pay of more than 10 soldiers was devoted to the employment of servants in the Tao-t'ai's Yamên. A country gentleman named Lin Wen-ch'ên obtained his Bachelor's degree when Liu Ao was examiner, and some time ago was appointed to the command of the Yi battalion of local irregulars; and Wu Ch'ao-yang also held a similar command some time back, but as their names do not appear in Ch'ên Ming-chih's report, the probability is that they were dismissed long since. The various officers connected with the different battalions, are, he says, all small military officials or men who have risen from the ranks, and not worth mentioning in detail.

Among the officers of marine there is only one who is a petty official and one who is a graduate; all the others are military officials. The marines are not muster roll strength. No return has been made in the past of the strength of the garrison troops, who have been now disbanded together with the marines. The train bands raised among the fishing population are supported and managed by the people and receive no pay or ration from the Government. The other train-bands are all under the control of the gentry, and concern the officials in no way.

(To be continued.)

Official Paper.

THE PREPARATION OF TEA.

The following is a full translation of the Chinese documents on the above subject:—

Notification by the Managers of the Shanghai Tea Guild. On the necessity for an improvement in the preparation of tea.

The Managers of the Tea Guild of Shanghai were yesterday favoured with the Tao-t'ai instructions relative to a despatch received from H.E. Tsêng in consequence of a communication from the Taung-li Yamên embodying a letter from Sir Robert Hart in which the Inspector-General states that the quality of Chinese tea is gradually deteriorating, and that an improved method of preparation must be introduced without loss of time, in order to preserve this source of profit. This being the time of the year at which the new season's tea is being picked and collected, we have caused a copy of the Tao-t'ai's proclamation to be inserted in the *Shên Pao* and *Hu Pao*, and we further purpose distributing printed copies among the tea-hongs and tea-growers, so that it may come to everyone's knowledge.

The tea picked should be the tender green leaf; the greatest care should be taken in its preparation; there must be no adulteration with foreign matter, nor any device for increasing the weight. Beware of ruining your best interests by hankering after petty gains. That you should take to heart and profit by the reiterated warnings of the High Authorities and the Inspector General of Customs is the earnest wish of the Managers of the Tea guild.

The following is the tenor of the Tao-t'ai's instructions:—

Proclamation by Shao, Superintendent of Kiangnan Customs, Intendant of Su-Sung-T'ai Circuit, &c., &c.

On the 29th November, 1885, I was honoured by instructions from H.E. Tsêng,

Superintendent of Southern Trade, to the following effect:—

"The Superintendent of Southern Trade received on the 14th November, a despatch, forwarded by express Board of War courier, from the Taung-li Yamên embodying a letter dated November 4th from Sir Robert Hart, Inspector General of Customs, of the following tenor.

"Tea is the mainstay of China's commerce, but of late years the quality of the article sold by native traders for export has been gradually deteriorating. The native traders assume that, tea being a necessary of life to foreign nations, they may give less attention to its preparation and quality, and yet be sure of a market and of increased profits. They appear to be ignorant of the fact that China is not the only tea-producing country. Leaving the tea produced by Japan out of the question, tea is being grown of late years in India in increasing quantity, and is coming into use over a daily widening area. The amount of tea exported from India to all parts during the current year is greater than last year. If Chinese merchants are ignorant of how tea should be prepared, but adulterate it with foreign matter, resort to devices for increasing its weight, scamp the work of firing, wet the leaf with water instead of drying it properly, and so on, it is to be feared that the quantity of tea which will find purchasers will grow gradually less and trade will be seriously affected."

The Yamên, commenting on the Inspector-General's letter, remarks: The rise and fall of trade has an intimate connection with the revenue of the State and the well-being of the people. Since commerce between China and foreign nations first began, the amount of money which has been drained out of the country to beyond the seas is enormous, and the main articles which have been relied on to counter-balance this drain are tea and silk. Now it appears from the tenor of the Inspector General's letter that tea merchants are gradually imperilling their chances of future livelihood for the sake of a petty present gain, a course of conduct which bids fair to entail most serious consequences. It becomes expedient therefore that instructions should be sent to the local authorities in the tea-producing provinces, directing them to charge tea-manufacturers and dealers that they make known to their families and people the danger ahead, and that they make common cause to safeguard this source of national profit. The Yamên accordingly encloses a copy of Sir Robert Hart's letter for the information and guidance of the Superintendent of Southern Trade.

The Superintendent has in consequence communicated the tenor of the Yamên's despatch in the proper quarters, and has now to instruct the Tao-t'ai at Shanghai to direct the tea-traders to comply one and all with its recommendations, and to give them clearly to understand that it is most essential they should combine to safeguard this source of national profit.

On receipt of the above the Tao-t'ai issued the necessary instructions to the Magistrate of Shanghai, and has issued a notification enclosed herewith, instructing the managers of the Tea Guild to act in accordance at their earliest convenience, and to give the tea traders to understand that in future tea brought down for disposal in the foreign market must be conscientiously prepared, and that one and all must unite in preserving this source of profit. Do not disobey this urgent and special proclamation.

Having received the above instructions from the Tao-t'ai, the managers of the Tea Guild now, under date 7th December, 1885, beg to append a copy of the letter from Inspector-General Hart, which runs as follows:—

"In the matter of tea as an article of commerce, during the last four or five

years the quality prepared and sold by Chinese merchants for export has been gradually deteriorating. Chinese merchants appear to assume that tea being a necessary of life to foreign nations, a saving may be effected in labour and material without the demand falling off, and at the same time profits will be increased. They do not understand that by so acting the profits derived from the property and business of tea-hongs will be seriously impaired. Such Chinese merchants must learn that there are other countries where tea can be produced. Not counting the tea exported by Japan to various countries, the tea recently planted in India is daily increasing in productiveness. A great deal of labour is expended on its firing and preparation, and not only is the quantity of high-class tea produced growing greater, but the area over which its use is welcomed is constantly widening. If Chinese merchants do not know how to prepare tea, it is to be feared that within a few years the demand will gradually diminish. Last year the tea sold in China for export amounted to 200,000,000 catties; India tea sent to all parts amounted to 16,000,000 catties; Ceylon tea to 2,000,000 catties. This year the export of Indian tea has risen to 19,000,000 catties and of Ceylon tea to 4,000,000 catties. And it must be considered that a few years ago neither India nor Ceylon produced a single catty of tea; a few years later they produce the amounts stated, and after a few more years have elapsed there is no saying what the amount may be. China sets great store by her trade, but if Chinese merchants devote all their energies to economising labour, and stealing material with the purpose of making extra profits, it is but too probable that the tea business in China will severely suffer. I venture to suggest to the Yamên the advisability of writing to the Superintendent of Southern Trade, requesting him to issue instructions to all managers of the tea business to direct in the clearest manner all those concerned that in future the following manner of manipulating and adulterating tea must be strictly discontinued: 1, the admixture of all kinds of foreign matter; 2, the increasing of the weight by the addition of water, which leaves the leaf wet instead of dry; 3, the economising of expenses by decrease of work in firing and preparation for the market. These are all important points, and if not attended to, the tea-man's trade will meet with loss and injury. It cannot then be said that timely warning was not given. Tea is the great mainstay of Chinese commerce. The question is one which affects Customs duties, and thereby the Imperial revenue; it affects mercantile property, and thereby the well being of the people. Seeing clearly as I do the course events are taking, I dare not remain quiescent and say no word. I have accordingly addressed this letter, etc., with compliments."

Meetings.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

At the General Meeting of the Council held in the Board Room, No. 23, Kiangse Road, Shanghai, on Friday, the 26th February, 1886, at 4 o'clock p.m.

Present:—Messrs. A. G. Wood, Chairman, M. Adler, Th. Bieber, P. Maclean, R. de Malherbe, G. J. Morrison, M. M. Moses, J. F. Ssaman and the Secretary.

The Minutes of last Meeting are read, confirmed, signed by the Chairman, and passed for publication.

Cash Statement for past week is submitted, and Cheques for sundry accounts are signed.

Cattle in Native Dairies.—The following report is ordered to be published:—

	Locality of Dairy	Inst. Return.	Buffaloes	Cattle	Cows	Goats	Other	Cattle	Buffaloes	Total	Remarks.
Sold	Hongkew Bldg/IES	13	6	6	1	1	1	6	1	13	
Bought	Broadway No. 3	8	6	1	1	1	1	6	1	8	
	" " No. 3	16	12	1	1	1	1	2	1	18	
	" " Hongkew	24	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	24	
	Woosung Road	32	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	30	
	Woosung Road	10	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	
	Shizu Village	10	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	
	" " No. 2	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	
	" " No. 3	28	18	1	1	1	1	1	1	27	
	Tai-hoo Dairy	29	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	29	
	Fench Road to Siao-wai.	12	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	
	Yuen-sung	16	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	16	
	Sung-lee	13	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	
	Tai-sien-joh (South)	15	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	15	
	Near Niungpo Joss House (Appling)	23	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	23	
	Overweg's Bungalow	20	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	20	
	Hung-fai	18	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	18	
	Zee	13	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	
	South of Tai-sien-joh	6	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
	Ali-Cho	6	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
	Aie-sung	6	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
Total		305	137	2	69	34	37	49	6	304	active cow bought.

Volunteers—New Battery.—The following letters to H. M. Chargé d'Affaires at Peking, and Major-General Hamilton, commanding the Forces in Hongkong, are submitted and approved of, and ordered to be forwarded through H. B. M. Consul-General.

Watch Matters.—The Chairman of the Watch Committee mentions that the Captain Superintendent of Police had asked

Mr. MOWAT said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I have hardly anything to add to the information contained in the report, which has been in your hands for a week or two past. You will see on referring to the accounts that there is an item of £1s. 360 for new heating apparatus for the Cathedral. That is rather a serious amount; but we understood that the old apparatus had completely corroded away; and that it was absolutely necessary to replace it. The architect reports that it is reasonable to suppose that the new apparatus will last as long as the old has done, and this he believes is as old as the Cathedral itself, so that although this is a big amount, it really ought to be distributed over the years past, or the years to come. A reduction was made, as you are no doubt aware, of the pews-rents in the aisles.

That will be attended with a slight diminution in the income, but the Trustees thought it was the right thing to do, as the seats in the aisles—the bulk of them at any rate—are not so well situated as those in the nave. The only other matter is one which you will regret to hear, namely, that Mr. Fentum, the Organist, has been obliged to send in his resignation to the Trustees.

Mr. MOWAT read a letter from Mr. Fentum giving notice of his intended resignation on account of his approaching departure from Shanghai, and thanking the Subscribers for their kindness to him during the many years of his connection with the Cathedral. In conclusion, Mr. Mowat said there was nothing further that occurred to him; but he should be glad to answer any questions with regard to the accounts, or any other matter connected with the Cathedral.

Mr. MORRISON said there were one or two matters connected with the report and accounts on which he should like a little information. There was a sum of £1,800 in the accounts transferred from the Spire Fund to the ordinary accounts; and he wished to know whether there was any further explanation of that transfer beyond the short explanation given in the report.

Mr. MOWAT—There is no further explanation than that given in the report.

Mr. MORRISON—Then I think I must take exception to that item. The money was subscribed to the Spire Fund for a special purpose. It was set aside in a special account, and remained in that special account for many years. Now the Trustees, apparently, have looked upon that money as belonging to the Subscribers, or Pewrenters, or whatever you choose to call them, in exactly the same way as money received in any other way. I do not think that is the right way of looking at it. That money has been subscribed for a special purpose, and it ought not to be taken from that purpose except for some special reason. If it could be shown that the spire could not possibly be built, the Subscribers might then be asked whether the money might not be applied to improving the structure in some other way, or to some other purpose in some way allied to the purpose for which it was subscribed. But I do not think there is any excuse for simply appropriating it to our ordinary annual expenses. I do not think it is a right way to deal with the money, and therefore, Sir, I beg to move that the amount be re-transferred to a Special Account, to be placed on deposit, with interest from the time at which we took it over. Of course it altogether depends on the light in which you look upon that fund. I look upon it as a trust fund which we have no right to touch. If we take it away, we put ourselves in the position of having taken money to which we are not entitled.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that Mr. Morrison should wait until the adoption of the report and accounts had been moved and seconded, and then bring forward his proposal as an amendment.

Mr. MOWAT moved the adoption of the report and accounts (which have already appeared in our columns). Referring to the point raised by Mr. Morrison, he said—If there is any blame to be borne by anyone in respect of this matter, it should be borne by me. It occurred to me that it was a pity that we should have to pay 8 per cent. on an overdraft at the bank, while we were receiving only five per cent. on this money, and I suggested this to the only other Trustee who happened to be present. He agreed with me that it was a pity that this state of things should continue to exist, we therefore thought we might for the time pass this money to the general account—simply as a matter of accounts. The purpose has now been served. We are now in funds—for the last week at any rate—and if it had not been that my term of office

had nearly expired, the money would have been retransferred, and a fresh deposit receipt would have been taken for that amount. I have left this for the new Trustees to do, so that the object of Mr. Morrison's proposed resolution will then be met—I suppose within twenty-four hours; for the new Trustees will no longer have any justification or reason for keeping this money in the General Account. It will be rather a burden than anything else, because we shall be paying 5 per cent. to the Spire Fund for it, while on our credit balance we shall only receive 2 per cent. That is how the matter has stood only within the last week.

Mr. BELL—in seconding the motion, I must say I think Mr. Morrison's amendment is proposed under a total misapprehension. The Trustees never had any intention of merging this fund in the general accounts. The funds are now in such a state that I am happy to say the Trustees can afford to keep the money. Their assets are just as good as the Bank's assets. The money will certainly be kept as the Spire Fund, and if it cannot be trusted in the hands of the Cathedral, I certainly cannot see any reason for it. There is no intention of dealing with the money otherwise than was originally intended.

Mr. MORRISON—If the money is going to be re-transferred—(Mr. MOWAT—It is)—there is hardly any reason for putting a formal motion; but my reason was brought very strongly forward by a remark of Mr. Mowat's in which he said, "I did not see any reason why we should pay eight per cent. for our overdraft, whilst we were receiving only 5 per cent. on the other sum." I cannot help thinking the two "wes" are not at all the same. In one case it was "we," the subscribers to the Cathedral; in the other case it was "we," the Trustees for the Spire Fund.

Mr. MOWAT—I am quite willing to admit all that Mr. Morrison says. I am quite willing to accept all the blame which attaches to any one.

Mr. MORRISON—"Blame" is rather a strong word.

Mr. MOWAT—I was anxious to save this fifty dollars; and it was only afterwards that it occurred to me that there was this legal difficulty which Mr. Morrison suggests. It will be re-transferred, with interest, as the report states, at the bank rate for annual deposits—5 per cent.

Mr. MORRISON—Then I will not move any amendment.

The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was then put to the meeting and carried.

Mr. MORRISON—There is one other matter. I see that a difference has been made in the statement of receipts this year. Previously there used always to be a distinction between subscriptions from British subjects and those received from other than British subjects.

Mr. MOWAT pointed out that the report and accounts had already been passed.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that Mr. Morrison might move a separate resolution that in future subscriptions from British subjects should be separated from those of other nationals.

Mr. MORRISON said he would do so. He continued—My reason is this. The Cathedral has always been looked upon as more or less an English church. I have been present at a church meeting held in the British Consulate here under the Chairmanship of a gentleman who was a Roman Catholic, and not an attendant at the Cathedral, and who took the chair simply in virtue of his office as British Consul. The church is in a peculiar position. It is more or less acknowledged at home. Its dean is recognised at home as a dean, and the registers are accepted at Somerset House as registers, and they will grant certified copies from these registers there. At the same time, it is to some extent a congregational church. The subscribers

have the power, I think, of altering the service to Presbyterian if they think fit. But I think we ought to hold on to our connection with the English church, and I think it would be advisable to stick to our old plan of keeping the subscriptions received from British subjects separate from those of other nationalities. I really think there is something in it—that it is more than a mere matter of names.

The CHAIRMAN—I suppose really the fact of the matter is that the church was built under a certain Act of Parliament, and that Act of Parliament is equivalent to its Deed of Settlement, and the church still remains to a certain extent under it. Any question arising in regard to it would therefore have to be referred to that Act.

Mr. MORRISON—I think, as you say, that it remains to a certain extent a question of the Act under which the building was erected. The Chaplain of the Cathedral was originally the Consular Chaplain, and when that was done away with, the Government paid a certain amount of money as compensation, therefore I am in favour of holding on to the Church of England as long as we can, and making it appear from year to year in our accounts that we consider the Cathedral an English church, and not simply a church belonging to the community here. I think it does belong to the community to a certain extent; but I think we should keep our hold upon the Church of England.

Mr. MORRISON concluded by proposing a resolution that in future accounts the subscriptions of British subjects should be placed separate from those of other nations, and that the word "Subscribers" should be used in place of "Pewrenters." The resolution was carried.

Mr. WILKINSON proposed—

That Messrs. F. H. Bell, J. J. Keswick and J. Welch be elected Trustees for the ensuing year.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. BELL thought they ought not to allow the meeting to part without according a special vote of thanks to Mr. Mowat for his services as Treasurer during the past year. Mr. Mowat had done good work, had brought the accounts into good order and eliminated from them one disagreeable item. He had worked very hard, and the Subscribers were much indebted to him.

The vote of thanks was seconded by Mr. Welch and carried unanimously.

Mr. WILKINSON thought they ought not to separate without saying something with regard to Mr. Smith. He thought Mr. Smith in going from them, ought at least to be assured of the appreciation of the Subscribers for his single-mindedness and earnestness in fulfilling the duties which had devolved upon him.

Mr. MORRISON was sure that they all agreed with what Mr. Wilkinson had said. He was sure all the Subscribers appreciated the manner in which Mr. Smith had fulfilled his duties, and the fearlessness with which he had expressed his views on Sundays. Mr. Smith would carry with him their hopes for his continued success in the profession to which he had devoted his life.

The CHAIRMAN endorsed the remarks of Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Morrison, and suggested that they should embody their sentiments in a resolution.

Mr. WILKINSON thought it would be better if the Trustees simply conveyed to Mr. Smith the expressions of opinion in which he was sure all the Subscribers shared.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. Mowat.

REPORT.

The Trustees are glad to be able to report a substantial improvement in the financial position of the Cathedral. The liabilities last year included, besides the loan of £5,664.50 from the Opium Refuge Fund, an amount of

have received the speech of the Chairman that you are all of my opinion, that the man who has brought about this happy state of affairs should be called upon to share in that prosperity. (Loud applause). I am sure, gentlemen, that if we were seated on the opposite side, we would do what our Directors have done. I am sure we would not allow Mr. Jackson to go Home without in some substantial manner proving to him our appreciation of his most valuable services.—(Hear, hear)—not only to us as shareholders, but to this Colony in particular. (Applause). Knowing, as I do Mr. Jackson, I am sure your cheers to-day will last longer in his memory and will go deeper into his kind heart than the honorarium we are about to give him. (Loud applause). Mr. Chairman, with these remarks I have great pleasure in seconding the adoption of the Report.

The resolution was then put to the meeting by the Chairman, and carried unanimously.

The Hon. W. Keswick.—Mr. Chairman, I beg to propose the re-election of Messrs. Grote, Bottomley and Hoppius, the Directors, who, by rotation, retire at this meeting. Mr. Foss seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. McIver—I beg to propose the re-election of the Hon. P. Ryrie and Mr. Henderson as Auditors to the Bank.

Mr. Tennant seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman.—That is all the business. The Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday. I would ask you to remain for a few minutes for an extraordinary meeting.

Mr. Jackson, who, on rising, was greeted with loud and hearty applause, said—Gentlemen, I thank you most heartily for the generous proceedings of this day. It is indeed to me a very great gratification that I should, after being associated with you at twenty of these meetings, meet with such a reception at your hands. If I were to take the credit for the ability and everything that has been freely offered to me by the Chairman and by Mr. Chater, who seconded the adoption of the Report, I should be doing a very great injustice to my colleagues. No man was ever better aided in his post than I have been by my colleagues. (Applause.) It would indeed be a very easy matter to win a race pulling in the same boat with David MacLean, Ewen Cameron and John Walter. Not only these gentlemen above all, but the other agents down to the last-joined assistant, have worked happily, cordially and loyally with me. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I have done my best for this Corporation; I am extremely pleased that you consider my best good enough. (Long and loud applause).—*China Mail.*

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING.

The shareholders present then formed themselves into an extraordinary meeting, and Mr. McIver took the chair.

The Chief Manager read the notice calling the meeting.

The Chairman said—You will have noticed from the Special Circular sent to all the Shareholders on the 12th instant, that this Extraordinary Meeting is called for the purpose of asking your sanction to apply for the renewal or extension of the Ordinance under which the Bank was incorporated in 1866. I now beg to move the following resolution:—That the Court of Directors be authorized to apply for and accept a Renewed or Supplemental Ordinance to renew or supplement the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Ordinance of 1866, and for the extension of the time for which the said Ordinance was passed, for a further term of 21 years or for such other period as may be by such renewed ordinance provided.

Mr. S. Hughes—I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

The Chairman—I beg to give notice that a further extraordinary meeting will be held in this place on Wednesday, the seventeenth of March next, at 3 p.m., to confirm the resolution just passed.

This closed the proceedings.—*China Mail.*

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The seventeenth annual meeting of the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited, was held on the 23rd February in the office of the General Managers, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. The Hon. W. Keswick presided.

The Chairman said—We shall as usual consider the report as read. The state of affairs shown by the report, I think, will be considered as satisfactory by you as not to require any remarks from me. You will observe that the reserve fund is now completed by the transfer from the 1885 working account of \$42,890.34. This is a satisfactory completion of an important reserve, the sum amounting to a million dollars. And in view of the constant progress that the Company has made, the increased premiums it has collected annually, and the increased returns from the investments of the Company, the sound and altogether satisfactory condition of the Company must be apparent to everybody. It is not often that a Company, in the short time that this Company has been in existence, achieves the success which these figures represent; and I think that on the occasion of the completion of this reserve we have reason to congratulate ourselves upon the freedom from loss that the Company has had and the evidence that it gives of future success. I shall be happy to answer any questions that may be put.

No questions having been put, the Report and Accounts were passed, and the Hon. T. Jackson, the Hon. F. D. Sassoon, and Messrs. A. P. MacEwen, C. D. Bottomley, and H. W. Davis were appointed members of the Consulting Committee for the ensuing year.—*China Mail.*

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The seventeenth ordinary meeting of the shareholders in the China Fire Insurance Company, Limited, was held in the Company's Office on the 23rd February, the Hon. P. Ryrie (Chairman).

The Secretary read the notice calling the meeting.

The Chairman then said—Gentlemen, you have had this Report before you for some days, and I have no doubt you have gone over all the statements and figures therein; therefore, I think it is hardly necessary that I should read it. I would only say with reference to the report, that it may be considered satisfactory, as in the face of competition and the lowering of rates by some companies, it shows an accumulation of premia higher than that of any previous year. We have been fortunate as regards losses, in fact up to quite recently our losses for the year were only \$12,000 odd; unfortunately the fire at the Po Lok Theatre the other day increased our losses by \$14,500 more. You will observe that our interest account is a little behind that of last year; but this has been occasioned by our not being able to collect interest on two mortgages which we had in Shanghai, and lower rates in other quarters where we had our money invested. I think we have now placed our 'Loans on Mortgage' account on a perfectly sound basis. We have written off one loan entirely, but although we have done this we are in hopes that something will come back by and bye. I don't think there is anything else I need remark on; but I shall be happy to answer any question that any shareholder may ask.

No questions being asked, the Report and Accounts were passed; and Messrs. Huntington, Hoppius and Grote elected Directors, with Messrs. Matson and Cox as Auditors.—*China Mail.*

Amusements.

S.V.C. PARADE.

PRESENTATION OF GUNS.

The first general parade of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps during the present training season took place on Saturday afternoon. The Volunteers turned out in strong force, and as it had been announced that on this occasion the handsome present from the British Government of a battery of four guns would be formally handed over by H.B.M.'s Acting Consul-General, a large number of residents also congregated at the Central Police compound. Among those who were present at the presentation was an officer whose uniform attracted considerable attention. This was Major P. B. Walker of the Torpedo and Signalling Corps of New South Wales Volunteers. This gentleman is also Assistant Superintendent of the Electric Telegraph branch of the New South Wales Postal Department and he is on his way to England, having been appointed Commissioner for New South Wales at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition which takes place at London this year. The Corps mustered at 3 o'clock and went through a few simple evolutions under the command of Major Holliday, prior to the presentation, which took place at 4 o'clock. The battery of guns was ranged near the centre of the compound, round three sides of which the Force was drawn up in line, the Artillery under Captain Dallas, occupying one side, the Infantry under Captains Morrison, Bright, Lanning and Danenberg another, and the Light Horse the third. At 4 o'clock Mr. Consul Alabaster, H.B.M.'s Acting Consul-General, and Mr. Vice-Consul Ford arrived in their consular uniforms and received a general salute from the Corps. Mr. Alabaster advanced to the middle of the compound, accompanied by Mr. Ford and Messrs. A. G. Wood (Chairman of the Municipal Council), M. M. Moses, P. Maclean, M. Adler and Th. Bieber (Members of the Council). Mr. Alabaster addressed the Corps as follows:—

GENTLEMEN VOLUNTEERS,—I was very glad to be asked to present these guns to-day as a token of the confidence Great Britain reposes in you. It is always pleasing to have a share in a graceful action on the part of the Government you represent, still more gratifying when by it, the importance of a place with which you are more or less identified is recognized and the efficiency and services of a Corps to which you formerly belonged, so signally acknowledged.

On the greatness of Shanghai I need not descant. Fifty years are not yet passed since first we settled here, but successive Councils have caused to arise from out of the muddy swamp one of the finest and fairest cities of the East.

For yourselves, no Corps can boast a prouder record; not only have you under your present admirable Commandant attained a standard of perfection which has gained high praise from those well qualified to judge; not only have you shown yourselves time after time prepared to undergo the toils and various discomforts of a soldier's life, but on more than one occasion you have seen real service under fire, and on each, victory has attended on your daring. I do not know if there is any here who was at Muddy Flat, but I see one who took a part in a feat as valiant when some twenty years ago the Rebels were around us and some thirteen Mounted Rangers one fine morning met and scattered over twice a hundred times their number.

My late lamented chief knew well the stuff you are made of when using his influence to obtain this gift. What you have done before, you'll do again, and if these pleasant times of peace perchance should pass away, our wives may still sleep in security in the knowledge that the Volunteers are keeping guard without, ready to meet and able to defeat whatever foe

may venture to attack them. In handing these guns over to the charge of Captain Dallas, I know they could not be entrusted to worthier hands. He'll never lose them, but if any should attempt to take them, he will scatter them as he did the Rebels on the morning I have referred to.

Mr. Wood, as Chairman of the Shanghai Municipality, Major Holliday as Commandant of the Volunteers, and Captain Dallas, Commanding the Artillery, I present you these guns as a mark of the appreciation of my government. May you never need to use them, but if the day should come, may I be there to see it.

Mr. A. G. Wood returned thanks on behalf of the Council, and the four companies of the Artillery then marched forward under the command of Captain Dallas, and manned the guns. The Infantry afterwards marched, headed by the Town Band, to H.B.M.'s Consular Compound, where they went through a number of evolutions, Major Holliday afterwards expressing the opinion that the men had drilled very steadily considering that this was the first battalion drill of this training season.

Correspondence.

THE SOOCHOW CREEK.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA HERALD.

SIR,—In your leader of 3rd instant, you refer to the late Sir Walter Medhurst's opinion, or probable evidence, with reference to the matter lately in dispute between Mr. Ince and the Municipal Council.

I think that it may be interesting to some of your readers to see what Sir Walter Medhurst's views really were and I therefore hand you for publication extracts from several letters bearing upon the subject.

Extract No. 1 is from a letter dated 9th April, 1885, from Mr. Wm. Harwood (Mr. Ince's London Solicitor) to myself, and Nos. 2 and 3 are extracts from letters from Sir Walter Medhurst to Mr. Harwood dated respectively the 17th and 24th June, 1885.

Yours, &c.,

R. E. WAINRIGHT.

4th March.

[1]

I have just seen Sir Walter Medhurst who says that he was the Interpreter to Captain Balfour when the Land Regulations of 1854 were framed and that he is quite sure that Ince's land was not within the boundaries of the land defined in those Land Regulations. The Li family the former owners of this land were a very influential family and brought pressure to bear on the Chinese authorities by which their property was excluded from the limits of the Settlement eventually they were influenced by the "almighty dollar" and voluntarily sold the property to foreigners. Sir Walter Medhurst says that he himself invented the word "Beachground" and that it was never intended in any way to cover the "Foreshore" on the Soochow Creek but was simply intended to refer to the "Foreshore" of the Whangpoo river. Sir Walter was in Shanghai at the time the land was acquired for the Settlement and must know about the matter. * * *

I understand that Sir Walter has written privately to the Municipal Council Shanghai on the matter with his views but he treating the communication as a private one declines to let me see his letter.

[2]

You are right in understanding that I acted as Interpreter between Captain Balfour and the Chinese authorities at the passing of the original Land Regulations during the period between 1843 and 1846, but, as I have seen no plan showing the position of the lot which formed the subject matter of the action, and as I cannot clearly

carry the features of the locality in my mind, I hesitate to say that the lot was not included within the boundaries of the land set apart by Capt. Balfour, and did not form part of the Settlement either then, or when the subsequent regulations of 1854 were passed. All that I am prepared to declare is, that the maintenance of a Public road along the water side, applied only to the four lots first taken up by British subjects on the river face, between what are now the Nanking and Peking Road—that there was at that time no understanding that this reservation was to take effect up the bank of the Soochow Creek, inasmuch as the possibility of acquiring land in that quarter was then not contemplated: that, when sites were subsequently acquired on the Soochow Creek, a reservation of the bank for the purposes of a public road was not made a condition of transfer to the British Lessee; that a western boundary of the concession was claimed by Capt. Balfour, namely, a cross creek which is now occupied by the road passing in front of the Cathedral, but it was not clearly defined at its Northern end, owing to the difficulty then attending the acquirement of land in that quarter: and that the Northern boundary of the Concession was fixed by Capt. Balfour at a site then called "Le Kia-chang" and afterwards occupied by the British Consulate property as first constituted, not, as Sir R. Rennie assumes at the Soochow Creek; for it was only after the Le Kia-chang and naval dockyard properties had been acquired, that the Northern extremity of the British site abutted upon the Soochow Creek.

I left Shanghai in 1846, and did not return until 1849, when Mr. Alcock had already made the further agreement with Lin, Intendant of Circuit. This instrument, so far as I remember, had the effect of removing the Western boundary of the Concession further Westward; but whether it more clearly defined the line as it approaches the Soochow Creek I am not prepared to say.

[3]

I am in receipt of yours of 19th inst., also of note dated 22nd inst. with all papers accompanying.

Referring to the evidence of Messrs. Giles and Parker I may say as follows:—The Chinese words *Chü Pü* do not, according to my understanding of them, mean either "middle of the reach" or "low water mark." The first word *Chü*, means "going out" or "extending into." The second *Pü*, means simply the "water" or "stream," the two combined mean in simple English "extending into the stream." They involve no definition of the limit to which such extension is intended to go. But the common sense acceptance, when I was Interpreter, was, as it is now, "low water mark." The word *T'an* means the "foreshore," and that is supposed to be merely the land covered and left by the tide. Mr. Giles' description of the Eastern boundaries of lots 1, 2 and 3, &c., bears out the explanation I have given you in my letter of 17th inst., as to the circumstances under which those lots were placed in foreign possession subject to reservation of a road on the river side; and my statement in same note that this or a similar reservation, did not apply to lots on the Soochow Creek is borne out by what Mr. Giles deposes in respect to lot 232.

Reference to the plan (Exhibit U) confirms me in the impression, which I previously had, that Mr. Ince's property was originally the site called "Naval Dockyard" and which according to the preamble of July 8th, 1854, was declared to be exempted from Municipal control, whilst it was yet Chinese Government property. The Chinese characters which indicate the site (B) mean "Government dockyard" and I remember the property perfectly, as being one which the Chinese authorities declared to be inalienable, although they

subsequently conceded it to the British Consulate—when the first regulations were made declaring Le Kia-chang (afterwards the British Consulate) to be the Northern boundary of the Concession, this Naval Dockyard property stood to the North and East of Le Kia-chang, and consequently was not included within the Concession limits, this is borne out by the fact, that when the preamble of 8th July 1854 was drawn up and the Dockyard property became absorbed within British limits, it was expressly stipulated that it should remain exempted from Municipal control, in common with the Custom House the Temple of Reward (which was situated on the Yang-king-pang) and the British Consulate site—whether that exemption lapsed with the sale of the property by the British Consulate is a question perhaps worth consideration.

Mr. Giles states that the title deeds of lots 1, 2, 3, etc., do not show when the surrender of roads was made. But I can testify that the surrender of the road along the river bank was made a part and parcel of the condition in which that series of lots was transferred. In fact the first regulation provided especially that a road was to be reserved in front of the lots along the shore. This reservation however did not apply to the Soochow Creek.

THE LEKIN QUESTION.

To the Editor of the

NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Since the recent Ratepayers Meeting so many residents have expressed to me their entire ignorance of everything connected with the lekin question, and their desire to get at least a general idea of some of the principal facts in connection with it, that I have consented to endeavour to put these into a sufficiently concise form for publication in a letter, but I must at the same time state that, within such necessarily brief limits, it is quite impossible to do more than give a very cursory and imperfect review of the subject. The questions generally put in conversation amount in substance to these:—(1) What are the real interests involved? (2) How are they affected? (3) In what way could this community do anything towards getting the matter settled? The answers may be briefly stated as follows:—

1.—The only *bona fide* interests involved are:—(a) The Indian Government. (b) The Importers of opium. (c) The Opium Farmers. (d) The community here.

2.—Their interests are affected in the following ways:—(a) The Indian Government raises an annual revenue of about £3,000,000 out of the opium sent to China. The more opium sent, the better it is for the Indian Government. The present high rate of lekin has greatly injured the trade, reducing it some 20 per cent. and the Indian revenue suffers accordingly. Successful smuggling cheapens opium and tends towards keeping up the quantity imported. It is therefore the interest of the Indian Government that lekin should be lowered, or that smuggling should abound. (b) The interest of the importers is affected in the same way as that of the Indian Government. (c) The interest of the Opium Farmers is to get the largest possible proportion of the tax whatever the rate may be, and therefore to prevent smuggling. (d) The interest of the Community here is to preserve peace in the streets and to prevent independent Chinese tax collectors from carrying on their business within the Foreign Settlements.

3.—Whether this Community can do anything towards a Settlement of the question cannot be stated with any degree of certainty until a real effort is made for the purpose. It would depend upon the answer to this question—are the interests and objects of the four parties named above irrevocably hostile, or can they

in any way be made to harmonize? The Commission about to sit in Hongkong, comprising a British Consul, an officer of the Hongkong Government, and the Shanghai Taotai, has to endeavour to devise a workable system there for exactly the same purpose; but the difficulty is much greater there than it is here. The present rate of lekin is undoubtedly much too high, and injurious to the interests of all parties. It is probable that the Opium Farmers could be induced to co-operate with the British authorities in their efforts to get the rate lowered to a very considerable extent, if guaranteed support in preventing smuggling when a satisfactory rate had been fixed. The British authorities wish to have lekin fixed at such a rate as will not seriously check the trade, and to get some guarantee against frequent alterations of the rate; and the Chinese wish to get facilities for the prevention of smuggling, so as to secure as much of the revenue as possible. By going to work in the right way it could be shown that the Chinese would get a larger revenue from a comparatively low rate of lekin without much smuggling, than they now get from a very high rate and a great deal of smuggling; and as soon as this is proved, the interests in reality become identical, and but little diplomacy would be necessary to produce the desired result. The sum of Tls. 100,000, which the Farmers offer to give up annually, if enabled to save the rest, amounts practically to a considerable reduction of the rate of lekin. If this sum is made an actual reduction of the rate of lekin, it would in all probability settle the whole difficulty. There is good reason to believe that this could be effected, but by very different methods to those being followed at present. It is almost certain that the worst is now known on both sides; in other words, that the trade will not shrink any further, and that smuggling cannot become worse than it now is. In this case the data exist on which to found a settlement, and it only remains to collect them carefully and use them wisely. At present, both sides are losing heavily by an unnecessary warfare which it is to the interest of both to put an end to, and a satisfactory solution of the question would be a great and lasting benefit to these Settlements, and all persons living in, or connected with them.

Your obedient servant,

W. V. DRUMMOND.

Shanghai, 5th March.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Your article this morning demands a few observations. You express an opinion "that the Opium Convention has been ratified, and that consequently we shall have no more trouble about Lekin." If I could agree with you in this I would willingly consign the subject to oblivion, but all the best opinions that I can get agree in thinking that it is very improbable that the Convention will ever come into force, and that in any case it will not be without very long delay, and many modifications. The preamble to the new Convention states that the British Government "recognize the necessity of placing restrictions upon the consumption of opium," and the spirit implied in this phrase must be borne in mind in considering this subject, as well as the fact that this spirit is directly opposed to the interests of the revenue of the Government of India. The basis of your argument covers a principle so important in connection with questions of "illegality" in China, that I venture to suggest the following propositions as tending to show the true method of dealing with such questions.

1.—The Chinese Government can do everything it likes in China, except such things as are directly or inferentially prohibited by treaty.

2.—Foreign powers can do nothing in China, except such things are directly or inferentially permitted by treaty.

If follows therefore that when enquiring as to the legality of acts done in China, the first thing to note is whether the act in question is done by the Chinese Government, or by a foreign Power. If by the former, then the next question is: Is it prohibited by treaty? If by the latter, then the question is: Is it sanctioned by treaty? The establishment and levying of a tax by the Chinese government upon its own subjects requires no sanction by treaty. It is, like every other ordinary act of government, simply part of the inherent right of the paramount Power. To make it illegal it must be shown to be a breach of the letter or the spirit of some treaty. Lekin in China is in itself as lawful as the income tax is in England. If however the amount was fixed, on any particular goods on which the import duty was fixed by Treaty, at such a rate as to be prohibitory of, or extremely injurious to, that particular trade, it might then be fairly considered as contrary to the spirit of the treaty, and so illegal. The rate of lekin on opium having been raised last year from Tls. 28 to Tls. 86 a chest, this argument might have been used, it being already possible to show that the trade has been injured by the increase of the rate to the extent of some twenty per cent. The British Government having however only last year agreed in the new Opium Convention to a lekin of Tls. 80 a chest, is precluded from advancing any such argument. Smuggling, encouraged to such a pitch as to show that the higher rate is less profitable even to the Chinese Government than a lower rate with consequently less smuggling, would be, is the only available weapon at present to employ in the interests of the Indian Government for the purpose of getting the Chinese Government to agree to a lowering of the rate. This weapon is now being wielded with great vigour, and much temporary success. You allege that the amount of opium smuggling now going on here is small. I reply that it is notoriously enormous, and causes a loss of revenue of between Tls. 15,000 and Tls. 20,000 a month. Any impartial enquirer can be satisfied on this point at any time. It is utterly impossible that the native opium smuggled into these Settlements amounts to more than a mere fraction of the proportion of the whole amount consumed stated in your article, and great efforts are made by the Chinese to check this kind of smuggling. The wholesale defrauding of legitimate Chinese revenue could be reduced to comparatively insignificant limits at this port if the Municipal Police were not employed to prevent the suppression of smuggling. It is only within the last few months that this policy has been adopted, and while it is pregnant with evil for the future it is utterly valueless to the true interests of the community.

Your obedient servant,

W. V. DRUMMOND.

Shanghai, 9th March.

THE TEA TRADE.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—In so important an article of our trade as tea we must watch with interest any movement which is being made with an endeavour to improve its position, as it affects the welfare not only of the foreigners engaged in it, but of a large section of the native trading and agricultural classes in China.

I notice in a late issue of the *Shun Pao* and in the columns of the *Shanghai Mercury* of the 1st and 2nd inst., that Sir Robert Hart has addressed the Tsung-li Yamén on the subject and he predicts the ruin of the trade in a few years if the producers do not improve its manufacture and desist from

adulteration. The Tsung-li Yamén acting on Sir Robert Hart's suggestions have sent a despatch to the Viceroy at Nanking, who has forwarded the same to the various tea guilds.

It is no doubt a great point gained to have the attention of Sir R. Hart and the Tsung-li Yamén directed to any particular branch of commerce, but I regret to say I differ entirely from them as to the cause of the want of expansion in the tea trade, in fact, I would go further and state without fear of contradiction that there is much less spurious tea, both black and green, shipped from China now than there was ten to fifteen years ago, when prices of common tea were high enough to allow of any sort of rubbish being shipped. "Maloo mixture" is a bye-gone trade.

I am quite willing to allow that the article might be improved very much indeed, if the same care were given to its growth and manufacture as is given in India, Ceylon or Java, and if natives would adopt the machinery, &c. used in those countries, but the reason, and the only reason for the trade being in its present unsatisfactory state is the killing taxation it is burdened with compared with that imposed in any other producing country.

In India and Ceylon there is no tax at all, and the trade there has been fostered by government in every way possible. In Japan the duties amount to one dollar a picul. In Java taxation has lately been reduced to a minimum in order to give the tea planters a reasonable chance of competing with India, and yet in this country a confessedly inferior article is expected to stand an export duty of Haikuan Taels 2.50 a picul, and further exactions in the shape of *lekin* &c. to the extent of about Tls. 2.50 a picul more. In the place of being surprised that the trade does not expand it is a wonder that it has not been crushed altogether. It cannot increase under such overwhelming disadvantages; it might do wonders under less burdensome taxation.

Black Tea is an article that might bear a fairly heavy duty, as the cost of management in China is much less than in India etc., but Green Tea competes directly with the lightly taxed Japan produce and will not bear the same burden.

This is no question of conceding anything for the benefit of Foreigners, but it is one of vital importance to China itself. If the duties (Export and *Likin*) are not reduced, the Rulers of China must be content to stand by and see the Tea Trade go away to other countries where it is less heavily taxed. China will then grow sufficient for its own wants, and the districts which have hitherto derived so much benefit from supplying Foreign wants will become impoverished. On the other hand, a speedy reduction would again give life and expansion to this important trade, and Natives as well as Foreigners would thrive.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

K. C. Y.

Shanghai, 4th March.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—In my letter to you of the 4th instant I contented myself with pointing out what I believe to be the real reason for the want of expansion of the tea trade in China, but in order to understand thoroughly the gravity of the danger threatening China tea it will be necessary to go into a few figures.

Sir Robert Hart states that the Chinese tea sold to foreign countries was 200,000,000 catties say 267,000,000 lbs., the Indian tea exported to several countries was 16,000,000 catties say 21,500,000 lbs.

The Ceylon tea exported was 2,000,000 catties say 2,700,000 lbs. How very far these figures are from any approach to accuracy any one at all conversant with

the trade will know, and with only such information before them, the Taung-li Yamén would be acting rightly in only recommending producers to be more careful in manufacturing teas, and also in ignoring any petition to reduce duties. Instead of China exporting nine-tenths of the tea in the world she only exports about two-thirds as the following figures clearly show

The Export from all China to all countries is as nearly as possible.....	260,000,000 lbs.
The Export from India is 70,000,000 lbs.	
" " " Ceylon 4,000,000 lbs.	
" " " Java 3,500,000 lbs.	
" " " Japan 38,000,000 lbs.	

115,560,000 lbs.

It is unnecessary for me to go back twenty or five and twenty years, and point out that China then exported almost as much as she does now, whilst the industry was next to unknown in the other countries above-named. What we want to look at is the future, and unless the taxation is reduced in China the out-look is bad indeed. In India, new gardens are yearly coming into bearing. In Ceylon, the disappointed Coffee planters are "pawning their shirts" to replace Coffee with Tea and their export promises to increase by "leaps and bounds" and in a few years to rival that of India. In Japan it is within the memory of many still resident in China that this country was opened to Foreign commerce, and of course the Trade in Tea is of equally recent growth.

Perhaps as strong an appeal as I can make for the reduction of duties will be to compare the yields of green tea with Japan teas.

In season 1874 and 1875, the green tea export was 31,000,000lbs. whilst Japan only exported 19,500,000lbs. This season the green tea export will be about 24,000,000lbs, whilst Japan has grown to 38,000,000lbs.

To conclude: it was thought by many competent men that in the course of years a taste for tea would be educated in India and that she would be only able to produce sufficient to supply her teeming population. This has proved a fallacy. Indian teas are not suited to the taste or constitution of her people and so all her produce is thrown on to the markets of the world. The only way for China to compete with her is to produce a good consumable article at the lowest price possible.

Yours faithfully,
K. C. Y.

6th March.

A DISCLAIMER FROM WUHU.

To the Editor of the
NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—My attention has been called to a portion of your report at the late Rate-payers meeting in which Mr. R. W. Little is reported to have said:—"We shall be scandalised by a repetition on a large scale of the disgraceful fights and rows that a similar enterprise has lately induced in Wuhu, where there are ten foreign merchants whose sole business is to evade the collection of lekin."

In the first place I should like to know where Mr. Little obtained his information, as, being the oldest foreign resident here and not having left the port for the past two years, I can only say that I am not aware of any "row" having occurred here.

As to the ten foreign merchants "whose sole business is to evade the collection of lekin," I think the large opium hong in Shanghai are responsible for their presence here, as until the last few months a certain element were conspicuous by their absence (that is since Sassoon's closed their hong here, some eighteen months ago). It was not until the Tao-t'ai of Chinkiang made a compromise with the opium runners by paying them a percentage per annum, and thus released them from business there, that it occurred to them to repeat the operations at Wuhu, and being supported by their confreres at Shanghai they planted a colony here of most un-

scrupulous and lawless people, who do not recognise any Consular authority, in fact no Consular with any respect for himself would acknowledge them or allow them to register.

At present matters stand somewhat thus: The Wuhu Tao-t'ai has paid the monthly allowance to all foreign residents, yet the Bagdad portion of the community, although accepting the allowance, take every opportunity of breaking their agreement, and continue their smuggling operations, the result being that H.E. the Tao-t'ai has been compelled to put guard houses next to the residence of these misnamed traders to watch their movements.

It is an interesting fact, however, that since the reputable portion of the community have given up the opium business, the Lekin authorities have been able, so far this month, to obtain duty on over 300 chests against some 30 to 40 in previous months.

In conclusion, I hope the Tao-t'ai will see his way to effectually crush the present organised attack on his revenue.

Yours truly,

AN OLD RESIDENT.

Wuhu, 26th Feb.

New Reports.

IN THE U.S. COURT FOR THE CONSULAR DISTRICT OF SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, 9th March, 1886.

E. J. SMITHERS, Esq., U.S. Acting Consul-General,

and

Mr. L. L. BUSH } Assessors.
C. C. BENNETT }

ROBBERY FROM THE PERSON.

THOMAS LETFORD, a sailor belonging to the U.S.S. *Omaha*, was charged with stealing a gold watch from the person of Captain Sheret, of the British barque *River Nith*, at the Hongkew Hotel on the 17th inst.

Sergt. Ramsay, of the Municipal Police, prosecuted on behalf of Captain Sheret, and Lieut. Shufeldt, of the U.S.S. *Omaha*, appeared on behalf of the accused.

DAVID SHERET, Captain of the *River Nith*, having been sworn, said that on Sunday afternoon he felt rather tired, as he had been two days outside without a pilot. He accordingly went into the Hongkew Hotel, sat down on a chair, and fell asleep. The bar-boy came in and told him he had lost his watch, and the accused had it. Witness identified a watch which was produced as his own, and recognised the accused as the man on whom the watch was found in his presence.

NICHOLAS GROULEFF, P.C. No. 22, said he was called to the Hongkew Hotel by a coolie, and there saw Mr. Watson, landlord of the Hotel, Captain Sheret, and the bar-boy. They told him that a watch had been stolen, and asked him to search the accused, whom they suspected of having taken it. He saw the accused lying on the floor, and on searching him found a watch in his left coat pocket. The prisoner was not very drunk, but pretended to be. When out of the hotel he made several attempts to escape.

A Chinese bar-boy employed at the Hongkew Hotel stated that at a quarter past two on Sunday afternoon Captain Sheret came into the hotel and called for a cigar and a glass of wine. The Captain then sat down and read the paper, and after a little time witness noticed that he had fallen asleep. About half an hour later, the accused came in and called for a cigar and a glass of whiskey, which witness gave him. The accused then went and sat down next to the Captain. A few minutes afterwards witness heard a disturbance, and saw the Captain's watch-chain hanging from his pocket without a watch. Witness sent a coolie for a policeman, and would not allow the prisoner to go out till the policeman came, as witness was afraid that if he

allowed the prisoner to go, he should be accused himself.

In answer to Lieut. Shufeldt, the witness said the prisoner was not drunk at the time.

W. WATSON, landlord of the Hongkew Hotel, said he was out at the time of the occurrence, but he came in immediately afterwards. Captain Sheret told witness his watch had been stolen, and that the prisoner was suspected of having taken it. Just afterwards a policeman came, and witness asked him to search the prisoner. The Constable did so, and found the watch in his pocket, with the ring broken off. The ring was found on the table near where the Captain had been sitting. The prisoner appeared drunk when he lay on the floor; but when he got up he seemed to know more than a drunken man would.

In answer to Lieut. Shufeldt, the witness said there were two bars in his hotel—one frequented by sailors. The liquor was nearly the same at each. Witness solicited the trade of men-of-war's men, but did not remember ever having seen the accused there before this occasion.

Lieut. SHUFELDT said the only defence the accused had to offer was that he was intoxicated at the time and did not know what he was doing. The prisoner was a native of Boston, Mass., who had recently joined the service, this being his first voyage to the East. Nothing was known of his record before he joined the service. There had, however, been great difficulty on board the *Omaha* in consequence of men being dragged or going of their own free will to this "hotel," where they got liquor—whether drugged or not, he could not say.

HIS HONOUR, after a consultation on the bench, said, addressing the accused—The Court unanimously finds you guilty of this charge; and in passing sentence upon you I have considered what the Assessors have said in your favour. They are disposed to think that your state of intoxication, which was not very great, ought to be considered in mitigation of your sentence. I must, however, tell you that by the law drunkenness is no excuse for crime. The law premises that if a man intentionally gets drunk, whatever he does while drunk he intended to do. That is the common law doctrine, and that is the law of the Court. The sentence of the Court is that you be taken from the place where you are now, and be imprisoned in the U.S. Consular gaol at Shanghai for two years with hard labour, or in such other prison as the authorities of the United States may designate.

CONSULAR ENQUIRY.

H.B.M.'s Consulate,
Chinkiang, 10th February, 1886.

Before E. L. OXENHAM, Esq., H.B.M.'s Acting Consul.

THE QUALIFICATION OF A VOTER.

This was an enquiry on oath into the validity of a vote given by Dr. White at a Meeting of Landrenters held at Chinkiang on the 19th January, 1886. This enquiry had been adjourned from the previous day, when the Consul had expressed himself unable to allow or disallow a protest which had been made against the vote by Mr. Duff until he was in possession of further evidence.

There were present at the adjourned enquiry Messrs. Duff, Jerdein, Carnie, Emery and Dr. White.

Dr. WHITE entered a protest against the holding of the enquiry.

The CONSUL said Dr. White was under a misapprehension as to the enquiry. It was unprecedented, but so was the protest, which could not be dealt with till sufficient evidence was produced. He thought that rather than protest against the enquiry Dr. White should welcome it, as establishing his right to vote, and the interpretation of "Occupier." If Dr. White

still objected to the enquiry it should not proceed, nor would he be forced to answer any questions. The Consul would in that case apply to Peking for instructions.

Dr. WHITE said after the Consul's statement he would withdraw all his objections and protests, and would submit to the enquiry.

A point was raised as to whether the election of Councillors, to which the protest against Dr. White's vote applied, was a "Resolution." It was ruled that the election was a Resolution, and that the protest was good, having been made within fourteen days.

Dr. WHITE, having made an affirmation, produced a lease for the year 1886 from Messrs. Gearing and Co. for buildings and outhouses on Lot 10; for Tls. 25 per month. The premises were: a house occupied by Dr. White, with kitchen at the back, and a house in front, part of which was occupied by Chinese and part vacant since the 31st December, 1885. Dr. White said he had given no lease to the Chinese, nor had he received a cash in rent from them this year.

The CONSUL said the sub-letting of a portion of the premises to pay a portion of the rent would invalidate the vote. Were these premises to remain vacant, or were they to be held by the Chinese rent free?

Mr. T. W. DUFF was then sworn. He produced a plan of the Concession at Chinkiang.

Dr. WHITE pointed out the position of his premises on the plan. He said the front part was partly occupied by Chinese, while the back part was his house. He paid all the rent himself.

The CONSUL repeated that sub-letting would invalidate the vote.

Dr. WHITE said he could only accept that statement as far as it went. He thought he could sub-let, so long as he was responsible for the rent. The front part was not leased, to his knowledge.

Mr. DUFF wished to know whether these front premises were in the occupation of Dr. White on the 19th January, 1886. That was the point.

Dr. WHITE said the premises were then occupied in the same way as they were at present. He did not lease them, nor was any rent received for them on his authority, nor did he live in this part of the premises. He had control over it, and neither sub-let it nor received rent for it.

Mr. E. STARKEY, sworn, said he was agent for Messrs. Gearing & Co. On the 1st January he gave a lease of the buildings in question to Dr. White. He did not regard the two parts of the building as separate tenements.

By the Consul—Up to the 31st December, 1885, the front part was let to Chinese for Tls. 15.00 per month and the back part to Dr. White for Tls. 12.00 a month. The Te-shun Hong occupied the front part; but Witness believed they left at the end of 1885.

Mr. DUFF—Then you gave this lease to Dr. White to facilitate his vote?

Mr. STARKEY—Formerly Dr. White paid Tls. 12 for the back part, and the Te-shun Hong Tls 15 for the front part. I state on oath that in giving Dr. White a lease of the whole house from the 1st January, 1886, I had simply in view the collecting of the rent from one lessee instead of two, nor did I know at that time that Dr. White had any intention of going up for the Council. I told Dr. White that in view of his taking on himself the responsibility of paying the whole rent of Tls. 25, I would reduce his rent from Tls. 12 to Tls. 10 per month.

By Mr. Duff—I do not know what the Chinese are who occupy the front. I look to Dr. White for payment of the whole rent; my shroff does not collect rent except from Dr. White.

Dr. WHITE again denied having sub-let any portion of the premises, or received any

rent. He said if sub-letting invalidated his vote he would not sub-let, or if he did so he would inform the Consul immediately. The Consul said his interpretation of "Occupier" was a *bond fide* occupant; and in his opinion sub-letting part to pay a portion of the rent would invalidate the vote.

Mr. Duff's Compradore, having taken a Chinese oath, said he knew Dr. White's house. The front part was occupied by the Chip-yuan opium hong, which had been there since the 6th moon of last Chinese year. He believed the hong was fathered by Mr. Jerdein. The witness was proceeding to state what had been told him by Chinese in the Chip-yuan hong; but this was objected to as being hearsay evidence.

By Dr. White—There was an opium-shop and post-office in the front part of the buildings, as well as the Chip-yuan hong. The Te-shun hong had left at the end of 1885.

Dr. WHITE, in answer to Mr. Duff, said—The Chip-yuan hong are there on sufferance. If their payment of rent invalidates my vote, they will either pay nothing or have to leave. I have Mr. Starkey's receipts for rent.

Messrs. Gearing and Co.'s Compradore was then put on oath. He produced a Chinese rent-book, showing the receipt of Tls. 79.5 on the 12th of the 12th Chinese moon (18th January, 1886) from Dr. White for the whole of the premises in question. He said the front part was inhabited by the Chip-yuan hong. Last year it was occupied by the Te-shun hong, and when they left, the Chip-yuan hong came. The Te-shun hong was an opium hong; they had a board outside. Witness had not received Tls. 15 from the Chip-yuan hong, and he had not got their rent-book. He received money from Dr. White—not from Chip-yuan.

Mr. DUFF contended that the premises in the front were not in the occupation of Dr. White, but of the Chip-yuan hong.

Dr. WHITE said he had given no lease. He had originally intended to do so, but on hearing that by so doing he would invalidate his vote he had not done so. He imagined that his responsibility for the payment of Tls. 300, and the payment of rents and taxes, was sufficient to qualify him as a voter. He might make the front part of the premises a dispensary.

The CONSUL said it would cause great inconvenience if he should invalidate Dr. White's vote before the exact meaning of the word "Occupier" was ascertained. This was raised by Dr. White as a point of law, and it would be the best course, with the consent of the parties concerned, to refer this point to the Supreme Court for its decision, when a decision would be given. No definition of "Occupier" was given in the Land Regulations, and in default of other aid they must refer to the statute law of England, which required *bond fide* occupancy and twelve months' residence. In the meantime the Council would remain *in statu quo*.

Mr. Duff and Dr. White agreed to this course.

27th February, 1886.

The CONSUL gave his decision in this enquiry to-day. He first read the following—

Points submitted to the decision of the Chief Justice by Dr. White.—Premises occupied for which Tls. 300 a year is paid. On these premises there are rooms on ground floor unoccupied, but not sub-let. There are also rooms lent to a native who carries on business but has no lease, and does not, and never did, pay rent in any form to me. Does the fact of my temporarily lending my rooms to a native affect my vote? Above facts have been proved.

Premises rented at Tls. 300, liable to taxation, same as above. Should the lessee sub-let, does he lose his vote? He is still responsible for rent and taxes, and the second ten-

ant is only responsible to first tenant, who sub-lets. Up to date, a vote has always been allowed.

The CONSUL said in addition to the above, a copy of the evidence, the Land Regulations, and a plan showing the premises, had been sent to the Chief Justice, to enable his Lordship to understand the points bearing on the case. Dr. White's statements, were contradictory. Dr. White said he intended to sublet, but did not do so on the 19th January, because it might invalidate his vote—nor would he sublet without telling the Consul. Mr. Starkey gave a lease of the whole premises to Dr. White to facilitate the collection of rent by receiving it from one lessee, and reduced Dr. White's rent from Tls. 12 to Tls. 10 in consideration of his being responsible for Tls. 25, the whole rent of the premises. The building was partly occupied by Dr. White, and partly by the Chip Yuan Hong, and Dr. White no doubt considered that as he was responsible for the whole rent of the building, Tls. 25 per month, he was in *bond fide* occupation of it; but the maxim *allegans contraria non audiendus* was against him. He blew hot and cold with reference to the same transaction, and agreed to do or not to do a thing as it suited or did not suit his interests. Dr. White's construction of sub-letting could not be sustained; and though there might be municipal reasons for not disturbing the Council, the Council must abide by the opinion of the Chief Justice that "in his opinion Dr. White was not duly qualified under Art IV of Land Regulations of Chinkiang to vote as an elector at the meeting in question."

Decision accordingly.

Miscellaneous.

IRONCLAD TURRETS.

Seeing that so much interest now centres in the improvements in offensive and defensive armaments of war, the following translation of an article which is reproduced by *L'Echo de Shanghai* from *Le Soleil* may not be out of place in our columns:—

While the Servians and Bulgarians were exchanging shots with more or less success south of the Danube, the French and Germans commenced on the opposite bank, in Roumania, a contest in the course of which the gun also spoke. We must hasten to say that it was an industrial contest, and that the victory remained on the side of France. The question was about armoured turrets destined for the fortifications of Bucharest. From information gathered from the best sources, we are able to-day to let the public know all the details of this interesting question which occupies just now to such a degree the attention of all the military leaders in the whole world. Three years ago the Belgian General Brialmont, who built the fortifications of Antwerp, which are reckoned amongst the finest military works of modern times, was entrusted by Roumania with the task of organising the defence of the Roumanian territory. The young Kingdom, to which the Berlin treaty gave in 1879 an entire liberty of action, after devoting the first years to its internal organisation, turned its attention in 1883 towards organising the defence of its territory according to the old maxim, *Si vis pacem, para bellum*. The Roumanian Parliament voted for a period of ten years an annual credit of fifteen million francs, making in all 150 millions destined for the execution of the whole plans of fortifications advised by General Brialmont.

At this time, in France, we had just gone through a period of ten years after the events of 1870-1, during which we had reorganised our works of defence. Amongst the officers who distinguished themselves in this work, the "Commandant du génie" Mougin was specially noticed for having

endowed our frontiers north, east and on the Alps with a series of forts and armoured casemates. General Brialmont, when about to begin his work, was pleased to consult Commandant Mougin and ask his advice, especially on the subject of the armour-plated turrets which he had just completed—a thorough study, followed through ten consecutive years in his capacity of Chief of service of armour-plating in France.

After the Roumanian Government had adopted the plans of M. Brialmont and the use of the armour-plated turrets, they were perplexed. For the turrets, two systems were in presence of each other—the one emanating from Commandant Mougin and executed by the French foundries "Les Forges de St. Chamond" under the management of Montgolfier; the other represented by a German, Mr. Gütson, manager of the foundry of Buekan, near Magdebourg. The Roumanian Government decided to get over the difficulty by experiments and trials. In September, 1884, they gave an order to each of the competitors for one turret of each patent, deliverable at the end of 1885; a series of experiments made in the presence of the delegates of all the European Powers was to decide the choice between the French and German systems.

These experiments took place last December at Bucharest under the conditions indicated, and French industry has triumphed.

Let us first explain what is meant by an armour-plated turret. It is a metallic turret of about 4 meters in diameter by 2 meters in height. This turret turns on a pivot, just like a railway turntable, in order to allow the two guns which are placed side by side in the interior to fire in all directions. The base of the turret is protected by an immense metallic ring, which rises up to the mouth of the guns and secures the free working of the rotatory movement.

On the other hand the besieger has only the resource of destroying the turret, which necessitates a firing extremely prolonged and precise (prevented by the guns of the turret themselves), or again of disabling one of the two guns by hitting the muzzle; but in this case—itself very problematical—the dismounted gun can be replaced in little time. For the manoeuvre, five persons stand in the interior of the turret, the price of which is about 12,000 to 13,000 pounds sterling.

After these general features, let us point out the principal differences between the French and German systems. In the French turrets the mechanism regulating the levelling and the firing of the guns is independent of the iron-plated armour. The contrary is the case in the German turret, so that the possible putting out of shape of the iron-clad armour may make the firing lose all precision.

The French turret has no other opening than the embrasure of the guns, which are levelled and fired by means of electric apparatus. The turret fires by revolving continually on itself; at each turn the firing takes place at the precise moment when the gun passes in the direction of the spot aimed at, without the turret stopping or even slackening its movement. The duration of each revolution is regulated so as to leave to the gunner the time needed to load the guns. The German turret is levelled by means of a directing line traced on the exterior. The leveller is thus compelled to put his head out of the turret, which exposes him to the fire of the enemy.

Let us now sum up a first series of experiments which took place last month in presence of the King of Roumania Mr. Falcoyano, Minister for War, General Brialmont, and the military delegates of France, Germany, England, Turkey, Russia, Holland, etc. These experiments lasted

about fifteen days. They consisted of two principal points:

1° Working and acting on the offensive of the turret against the besieger.

2° Resistance and acting on the defensive against the attack of the enemy.

1° Acting on the offensive.—The French turret was armed with two de Bange guns, and the German turret with two Krupp guns. The target on which the two turrets had to fire was placed at 2,500 meters, and was 8 meters broad and 6 meters high. The question was to determine the precision of the firing of each turret.

The following are the results:—

ST. CHAMOND.

The 50 shots fired by the French turret fell all closely together on the target. The interval between each round of two shots was on an average 3 minutes 28 seconds. After the firing no derangement of any kind was found in the interior or on the outside of the French turret.

BUCKAU.

Of 50 shots fired by the German turret, 9 missed, and 41 others fell on or around the target. The interval between each round of the German turret was on an average 6 minutes. During the firing several big bolts of the German turret were broken, and derangements were found in the levelling mechanism.

First success scored on the French side.

Secondly, acting on the defensive.—The attack of the turrets was made with shots of 40 kilos in hardened steel, fired by a battery composed of two Krupp guns and one de Bange gun.

After thirty shots had hit each of the turrets, it was ascertained:—

ST. CHAMOND.

The armour-plate grazed by the shots striking normally showed no crack. The shock of the projectiles had produced only an insignificant commotion and a noise quite bearable. After the attack, there was no interior damage. Three rounds fired after the attack sufficed to ascertain the excellent condition of all the mechanism. The King of Roumania and a number of officers stood in the interior of the turret whilst projectiles came to strike it.

BUCKAU.

The armour-plates of the German turret were a riotously cracked. Numerous bolts and the head of one screw weighing 20 kilos started under the shock of the projectiles. The mechanism putting in motion the turret was damaged. Three rounds fired after the attack increased the damage. During the attack nobody ventured inside the German turret.

The second experiment therefore was equally favourable to our industry. There remain to make some experiments on minor points and of secondary importance, but the results acquired give to the French turrets an indisputable superiority which the complementary experiments can only confirm. We have therefore every reason to believe that success will crown the efforts of M. de Montgolfier, the active manager of the foundries of St. Chamond, who in this instance has held so high the flag of French industry. For the fortifications of Bucharest alone there are twenty-seven turrets to be built, and in presence of such results this order can not fail to come to France. Is it needful to insist on the importance of this success, which not only may well give satisfaction to the national amour-propre, but will moreover bring work to our metallurgic industry, which is suffering so severely at present?

THE BEST POLICY FOR CHINA IN RAILWAY MAKING.

The Times after referring to a previous article says:—We also indicated what was obvious enough—that the wise course for the Chinese was not to close with the German offers, but to raise their loans as required in the best markets, and to keep the expenditure, whether for railways or any other purpose, entirely in their own

hands. As a matter of fact, the element of truth in the original narrative received a large amount of adventitious colouring from the imagination. The Germans were neither so preternaturally sharp, nor the London princes of finance so complaisant, nor the Chinese authorities so simple as the earlier versions of the story led the public to believe. It is safe to bear in mind that in such cases great capitalists keep their own secrets as to plans in all the stages of inception, and, although much may be inferred from overt acts, these may show only one, and that perhaps the least important, part of the programme. When we say that China wants railways and also money to construct them, that German and French manufacturers are at work bent on securing the privilege of first entrance into this promising field, and that hitherto English manufacturers have taken no forward steps whatever, we have said probably the most which actual occurrences as yet warrant.

This, however, implies a great deal. The Berlin representatives who are now on their way to Peking are able and experienced men, thoroughly in earnest; they will be supported by all the weight which Prince von Bismarck's influence and celebrity can bring to their aid, and they will arrive in that capital precisely at the time when the Chinese Ministers have made up their minds to a particular policy; but, being still doubtful as to the easiest mode of carrying it out, will be the more readily disposed to listen to suggestions accompanied by tangible and not unattractive offers of financial help. These may be modified by recent events. The Vienna correspondent of a weekly contemporary states that Herr Hausmann, the Director of the Berlin Discount Company, who visited London on the very errand which has led to the present discussion, failed to arrive at an understanding either with the eminent firm originally referred to, or with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, as to the arrangements for a loan, and therefore went to China to act for the German group alone. If this be correct, his course would be clear enough. He would naturally endeavour to arrange for a loan such as Germany could subscribe without assistance from other money markets, and the expenditure of the proceeds would thus be in German hands. In any case, all that their country's diplomacy can do will be at the service of the group, and it will require much more than an indolent and self-complacent belief in the excellence of everything British to foil their efforts. How entirely Prince von Bismarck has taken the "industrial" question to heart is evident from the passages in the recent speech of the Emperor-King in opening the Prussian Parliament. That State document lays stress upon the consequences of over-production and upon the rivalry of other nations, and indicates the necessity of finding new markets in order to accommodate demand to supply. Prince von Bismarck's theories of State interference are not very sound, and his ideas of political economy certainly leave a good deal to be desired in an orthodox sense; but on this matter his vigorous mind has with characteristic directness gone straight to the point in seizing upon the true remedy for the industrial depression. When a country has so enlarged its machinery as to produce, not only far beyond its own wants, but also beyond those of the neutral markets it has been accustomed to feed, and when it finds itself in each of those markets confronted with the producers of every other manufacturing State, each burdened with the same unmanageable surplus, it needs no elaborate process of reasoning to show that, if a serious crisis is to be averted, and the whole industrial fabric saved from collapse, new outlets must be found for the commodities produced. We do not assume that the situation is as yet serious, either in Germany or else.

where; but the Prince is a man who provides beforehand against emergencies, and does not wait until they overwhelm him, and we may take it as beyond question that, if at all practicable, he will secure for his fellow countrymen a privileged position in China, as in every other country still to be opened up. "What then," it may be asked, "are the English manufacturers and their Government doing?" So far as we can ascertain, nothing. They are taking no steps either to secure concessions and contracts for themselves, or to prevent these from being precipitately, and on imperfect information, given to foreign rivals. Even the Chambers of Commerce, which should supply the motive force for concerted action of any kind, are mute, or confine themselves to abstract resolutions and an occasional memorial to the Foreign Office. The attitude of the great centres of industry may in fact be likened to the celebrated deadlock at which the Earl of Chatham and Sir Richard Strachan arrived, as sketched in the satiric epigram. Staffordshire stands waiting for Lancashire to move first, and Lancashire, longing to go ahead, stands waiting for Staffordshire. It might almost be supposed that British industries were now revelling in the heyday of exuberant prosperity, or that every nation in the world vied with its neighbour in a burning anxiety to purchase British products in preference to any other. We may, indeed, hazard one explanation of the indifference shown by the ironmasters, and we do so with some reluctance. The International Association of Iron and Steel Makers, which has been established on the "pool" principle—that is, to distribute a given number of orders or contracts among the different producing countries which are parties to the agreement in a fixed proportion—assures to English makers the manufacture of sixty-five per cent. of any steel rails which China might commission. Herr Hausemann and his friends to procure. To say nothing, however, of the fact that rails do not of themselves constitute a working railway, and that rolling-stock, roofing, and scores of subsidiary articles are wanted, it is surely not an unimportant consideration that if the Germans secure priority of entrance and of favour, they will use it to obtain substantial advantages in the future. China is a vast field, but there are degrees in the profit to be gained, and the most lucrative possibilities will certainly belong to those who, in the great Chancellor's own words, have the blessedness of being the first in possession.

It may seem a considerable innovation upon accepted theories that the British Government should take any public steps either to forward the interests of British commerce and industry at the Court of a foreign State or to counterwork the machinations of a rival. The proud traditions of English diplomacy have been consistent all along on this point, and we do not suggest any departure from them such as would turn every English Ambassador or Consul into a commis-voyageur with orders on his breast. It is clear, however, that without going so far as this much may be done at Peking by judicious representations, and a great deal may be done from without by a timely use of the advantages derived from the commanding position of our Empire in India. Holding Burma, the dominions of the Empress-Queen "march with" those of China, and a beneficial interchange of the products of both must take place in the very nature of things as soon as the railway already at work from Rangoon has been extended to the Chinese frontier. The obvious interest of the Chinese Government is to undertake the task of their own railway extension tentatively and by instalments, raising funds as they are needed, and keeping the lines entirely in their own hands, while avoiding all enmeshing con-

cessions, or any surrender of the rights of an independent Power. The equally clear interest of the Indian Government is to make an easy route by rail to Western China, and foster by that means a reciprocally profitable and amicable intercourse. Is there the least reason to doubt that the Chinese people would welcome the intercourse, and is it not absolutely certain that the astute statesmen at Peking would acquiesce heartily in advice from an English Minister favouring the policy we have outlined? The military party at the capital is supposed to be most ardent for railway construction; but that is also the party which would be the most jealous of foreign interference, based upon concessions of territorial privileges, and the most resolute to maintain the sovereign rights of the Empire within its own borders. It appears to us, therefore, that, even if English manufacturers continue supine, the British and the Indian Government can do much to place our relations with China on an excellent footing, and to strengthen her independent position, while linking the Chinese and Anglo-Indian Empire by ties of common interest and mutual respect.

THE P. AND O. STEAMER "THAMES" ASHORE.

A considerable sensation was caused in this Colony on Tuesday evening by the report that the homeward bound P. and O. mail steamer, the *Thames*, had gone ashore, on her way out from the harbour, in the Ly-ee-moon Pass. The *Thames* left her buoy at about quarter-past four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, homeward bound, and steamed slowly through the harbour to the Ly-ee-moon Pass, a route commonly taken when the steamers are heading in that direction at starting. The whole day had been somewhat thick, and at that time a heavy fog was beginning to settle down over the harbour. The first news that arrived of the disaster was a telegram forwarded from Shau-ki-wan Police Station to the Central Station, stating that the vessel had gone ashore on a spit just beyond Shau-ki-wan called East Point, and that there were two feet of water in her fore hold. This information was at once conveyed to the P. & O. S. N. Company's office, and launches and lighters were without any loss of time despatched to the scene of the disaster. The passengers and their luggage, and the mails, were at once taken off the ship by launch, and were conveyed back to Pedder's Wharf, and landed there about seven o'clock. The damage to the vessel could not be precisely ascertained at the time, but it was evident that one or more of the plates had gone forward from the rapidity with which water found its way into the forehold. The danger seems to have been seen just before the vessel struck, but not in time to save her. The steamer was going out slowly at the time, and her engines were reversed at full speed, and her anchor dropped, but her way could not be taken off soon enough, and she went ashore, first with a by no means heavy tremor, and then she heeled over considerably, and seemed to drop upon a rock, which has probably caused the damage to her bottom, as the second shock was considerably heavier than the first, and was accompanied by a loud crash. The vessel was then backed off the rocks, and taken close into the shore near Shaukiwan, and it is believed she is in no danger. Cargo boats were sent out as soon as the news was brought in, with all despatch, and the *Thames* is being lightened as quickly as possible; meanwhile, we believe, the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company have been communicated with, and the Cosmopolitan Dock is being got ready for her reception with all promptitude.

We learn that the disaster occurred shortly after five o'clock, in the midst of a very heavy fog. The *Thames* seems to

have just cleared one point, and gone upon the next. Most of the passengers were below at the time, and of course the shock occasioned some alarm, all running upon the deck, but Captain Seaton soon calmed down what little excitement there was by his coolness, and his assurances that there was not the least danger. The vessel was backed off, and taken close inshore, so that had it been found she was making water too fast to remain afloat, she could at once have been run aground, and every precaution was taken for the safety of those on board. It was so thick and foggy at the time that those on board could not see where they were as they came up on deck. It was but a short time before the disaster became known at Shaukiwan, and soon the vessel was surrounded by small craft. The Company's action was very prompt in the matter, for by about seven o'clock the passengers and their luggage were removed from the vessel, and alongside Pedder's Wharf, and not long after the mails were taken back to the Post Office.

One lady among the passengers states that the vessel heeled over to such an extent as to cause some glasses and earthenware to tumble off the table, and some ornaments on the side-board also to fall, and at the second shock there was a very loud noise, though the first shock was slight.—*Daily Press*, 3rd March.

Miscellaneous Intelligence.

BIRTHS.

On the 5th instant, the wife of ANDREW VEITCH, Esq., of a daughter.

At "The Palms," Shanghai on the 10th March, 1886, the wife of J. S. NAZER, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 6th inst., at the Cathedral of Holy Trinity, Shanghai, by the Rev. F. R. Smith, M.A., WILLIAM A. HENDERSON, L.R.C.S.E., L.R.C.P.E., of Chefoo, to JESSIE ELIZABETH, third daughter of Joseph Balfour, Athelstan House, Brighton, Sussex.

DEATH.

At Shanghai, on the 4th instant, ARTHUR AUGUSTO, aged 3 years, beloved son of José Francisco and Anna d'Aquino.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month.	Barometer		Thermometer in shade.		Hygrometer at 9 A.M.		WIND.	Rain-fall in inches previous 24 hours.
	S A.M.	Attached Therm.	Max.	Min.	Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.		
Mar 4	30.27	44.0	37.0	42.0	44.0	43.0	1 North	..
5	30.32	42.0	38.0	40.0	42.0	40.0	2 "	..
6	30.35	43.0	37.0	41.0	43.0	41.0	2 " N.E.	..
7	30.30	45.0	40.0	42.0	45.0	44.0	3 East	..
8	30.20	47.0	38.5	45.0	47.0	45.0	2 S.W.	..
9	30.32	50.0	33.5	48.0	50.0	47.0	1 "	..
10	30.45	40.0	30.0	37.0	40.0	37.0	2 " N.E.	..

EXPLANATION.

Initials: b blue sky; c. clouds; f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); o. overcast (dull) r. rain; s. snow; t. thunder; z. calm. Force from 1 to 21 estimated.

THE NORTH-CHINA HERALD.

AGENTS:—LONDON:—Messrs. GEO. STREET & Co., 30, Cornhill (E.C.) Hongkong:—Messrs. MACLEWEN, FRICKEL & Co., Queen's Road. New York and Atlantic Ports:—Mr. ANDREW WIND, 21, Park Row, San Francisco (Cal.). Mr. L. P. FISHER, 21, Merchants' Exchange, California St., Sydney:—Messrs. GORDON & GOTCH, Melbourne:—Messrs. NORTON, HARGRAVE & Co. Kobe:—Mr. J. M. MOR. Yokohama:—Messrs. LANE, CRAWFORD & Co. Nagasaki:—CHINA & JAPAN TRADING Co.

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OPIUM

RETURN FOR WEEK ENDING 6TH MARCH, 1886.

IMPORTED	MALWA		PATNA		BENARES.		PERSIAN.	
	Chests.	Weight.	Chests.	Weight.	Chests.	Weight.	Chests.	Weight.
Imported and stored on board Receiving Vessels	1,152½	1,152.50	128	153.60	99	118.80	..	..
Returned from shore on board R. Vessels	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Imported and transhipped for re-exportation without being stored on board Receiving Vessels or landed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Landed direct	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	1,152½	1,152.50	128	153.60	99	118.80	..	..
Landed from Receiving Vessels and intended chiefly for Local consumption	42½	42.50	124	148.80	80	96.00	2	2.00

RE-EXPORTED from board Receiving Vessels:—

Description.	Chinkiang.	Wuhu.	Kiukiang.	Hankow.	Chefoo.	Tientsin.	Newchwang.	Ningpo.	Wenchow.	Swatow.	Hongkong.	Total.
	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Wght. Pks.
Malwa	42 4.80	123 123.00	29 29.00	45 45.00	.. ..	103 103.00	.. ..	112 112.00	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	454 484.00
Patna	4 4.80	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	4 4.80	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	18 19.20
Benares	6 7.20	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 1.20	2 2.40	.. ..	41 49.20	.. ..	3 3.60	.. ..	63 63.60
Persian .....	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 1.00	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 1.00
Turkey .....	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Total	52 54.00	123 123.00	29 29.00	52 53.40	1 1.20	106 106.40	.. ..	157 166.00	.. ..	4 4.80	.. ..	624 637.80

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

SHANGHAI, 9th March, 1886.

SOME of the home papers to hand by last inward mail overflow with extracts from the *Blue Book* on the trade of China for 1884, and if those are genuine samples, the body must be highly refreshing reading. Doubtless the book furnishes much that is instructive, and, peradventure, useful, but apparently there is a vein of nonsense—if not worse—running through its pages. This is a somewhat hard saying. Nevertheless, on the extracts before us, hardly any other conclusion is feasible. For instance—in one part we find the American Cotton textile—its spotless purity and uniform standard of excellence—extolled almost beyond our recognition. In another, and yet another, the enterprise and the unscrupulousness of the German are dangled before our eyes as something, on the one hand, commanding our highest admiration and exciting our envy, and, on the other, pointing out to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State that "The Chamber would scarcely wish to imitate the use to which such information is put." But, the last excepted,—and that, by the way is a pat on the back, although on the indirect and inductive principle—scarcely a word of encouragement, or of praise, or even of sympathy (let alone simple justice) for or with that long-suffering entity, the British merchant—do those extracts contain. He seems to be quite too utterly vile. And yet there are who, knowing something of the man, incline to the belief that he has his good qualities; and that he has still an honest kick left in him. He himself freely admits that fabrics of various degrees of fineness and purity come to him from Lancashire, from Yorkshire, and even from pious Scotland; but he at same time contends—and not without reason—that inferiority and adulteration, as live and tangible grievances, are not altogether unknown in the experiences of his fellow merchants of other nationalities resident in China; and he holds that the contrasts, to his disparagement, in some of the Reports under review, argue an ignorance as to details and actual truth on the part of their compilers as glaring as that displayed by the Hon'ble. Mr. Bright in his recent "crushing reply" to Mr. O. Deacon of Leighton. The Hon'ble gentleman has stated with reference to the American export of Cotton goods:—"The Americans send almost no cotton goods to this country" (England), and again:—"They send almost none to any other country." The latter is an assertion which, had it been made by any ordinary man, would have been laughed to scorn, and even on such distinguished authority and having a due regard to statistical facts (see our report of 26th Jan., page 107) it is really very difficult to treat it otherwise. Friend John! Hast thou been slumbering and dreaming over thy carpets whilst the Yankee has been at work in all the earth—yea even in this land of Sinim? Wake up, old man!

The home export of *Plain Cotton* to all China for February last is given by Reuter as 41,000,000 yards, viz., 12,000,000 to Hongkong, and 29,000,000 yards to Shanghai.

PIECE GOODS.—Communication—seaward—with Tientsin has been re-established. The first direct steamers of the season (eight in number) left this simultaneously on the morning of the 6th instant and some of them reached their destination this morning, and before another homeward mail goes hence the result of their heavy cargoes (aggregating over 20,000 packages, one half of which is said to consist of American fabrics) will be known. Meanwhile the chances are that the Tientsin agents located here will do no more than watch the market.

Apart from the interest attaching to the despatch of the Northern steamers there is but little of noteworthy character for record to-day. The advices from the Riverine and others ports have not been such as to stimulate business, and the transactions in private, *en bloc* and separately, have, since last mail day, been unusually small. Prices for cotton staples as a whole, however, have been upheld, and at the close strength is the characteristic of the market for *T. Cloths*, and *10lbs.* and best *8½lbs. Grey Shirtings*, the auctions of the week, although exhibiting much irregularity, inclining towards steadiness and improvement.

Grey Shirtings.—*8½lbs.*—As reported, the business does not add up 10,000 pieces, and *Eagle* figures most prominently amongst the chops named. There has indeed been very little enquiry in private for any class, but the absence of demand has been specially felt by the holders of the medium to the lowest grades, which are now barely quotable. *Eagle* and *XX* remain steady at £1.73 and £1.71 nett, *Gold Loom* has been placed at £1.65½, *Green Lion A.* at £1.57½ nett, *Blue Joss* at £1.60, *Red Unicorn* at £1.52½, *Blue Fish* at £1.45, and *Blue Cock Grouse* at £1.26 per piece, the market for all closing very quietly but steadily.

9½lbs. a 10lbs.—The scarcity of these seems to be strengthening the desire of the natives to be possessed of them, as it is enabling sellers to advance quotations, and a considerable business has been done—in floating supplies and home orders principally—at improved rates. The particulars of the forward sales have not been given to the public, however, but the following have transpired, viz., *Red Lion and Flag* £2.03½, *Blue Eight Ponies* £2.04, and *Green Eight Ponies* at £2.21 per piece. Total 5,000 pieces.

12lbs.—English have been in some request, and over 5,500 pieces have been reported sold, the *Red Cuml* realising £2.35, *Warrior* £2.36, *Blue Elephant* £2.40, and *Three Feathers* £2.45 per piece, on which lines goods are still wanted. American, 1,000 pieces *Double Dragon* at £2.25 per piece have been reported.

Of 6lbs. no sale has been declared, and in 7lbs. only one, viz., 500 pieces *Gold Loom* at £1.15 has to be noted.

White Shirtings.—Neglected.

T. Cloths.—Outside the auctions the business passing has been trifling, and yet nearly every holder is imbued with an idea to the contrary, and that he is the only one not in the swim. This comes, perhaps, of the strength and improvement manifested at the auctions partly, and partly of the scarcity of the particular counts wanted. The aggregate of sales for the week is 4,500 pieces 7 lbs., the *Red Globe* and *Red China Woman* being quoted £1.04 and *Red Dragon* £1.22 per piece.

Drills.—American.—The quietude so long prevailing has had its effect. Rates have given way. *PMC* has this week been sold at £2.55 nett, but hardening subsequently to £2.58 less 1%, *Buffalo*, and *Magpie* and *Joss* having previously been placed at £2.45 and £2.47½ per piece. Total, about 14,500 pieces. In English 300 pieces *Dragon* at £2.30 per piece is the only sale reported.

Jeans.—Business continues to be done in low qualities of English afloat at about £1.34 per piece, but the particulars are withheld.

Sheetings.—Enquiry dormant and business confined to 1,000 pieces *Joss (American)* at £2.40 per piece.

Cotton Yarn.—English.—By a printer's error *Red Cock* was quoted in our last report £57 instead of £67 per bale. This week *English Yarns* do not appear to have been dealt in, but the demand for *Bombay Spinings*—No. 16—has been comparatively active, and over 350 bales of *Blue Fish* have changed hands at from £54.65/54.80 per bale. This chop is now a favourite with the Chefoo dealers.

Fancy Cottons.—Scarcely any business announced.

Woolens.—A like remark—qualified by the auction exception, to which reference must be made to-day for market guidance—is applicable here. Snow had given way to heavy and continuous rain at Hankow and its surroundings, and orders were delayed in consequence.

Metals.—From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report:—There has been very little business doing during the week under review. Natives have been engaged taking delivery of their recent purchases and shipping goods to the north. Meanwhile the market news from the outports is not considered unfavourable, though orders are coming in very scantily. **LEAD.**—The market has been quiet and sales have not been made at over £4.42½. **NAILROD IRON.**—About 800 tons Sohler's, to arrive shortly, have been disposed of £1.55. In other kinds there has been nothing doing. **BAR IRON.**—No change. **PIG IRON** is firm; 30 tons No. 3 Gartscherrie have been placed at £19.50. **OLD IRON.**—Rates generally are well maintained. Sales are:—83 tons horse shoes at £1.66½; 500 piculs cart tyres (common) at £1.16 and 400 piculs ditto at £1.04 at auction; 150 tons new boiler plate cuttings were sold at private terms. **TINPLATES.**—Remain neglected, and plain as well as decorated are difficult to sell at present. **STEEL.**—Good assortments can be placed at quotations. **SPELTER.**—No business doing. **STRAITS TIN.**—Small sales are reported at quotations which are lower. **COPPER AND YELLOW METAL SHEATHING.**—Natives report a sales of 10 cases copper sheathing at £16.60, and 10 cases yellow metal at £13.45. **JAPAN COPPER** has been neglected, and quotations are nominal. **IRON WIRE.**—With the exception of a small sale of damaged cargo at auction there has been nothing doing under this heading. Rates are scarcely maintained. **QUICKSILVER.**—No change.

Miscellaneous.—From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report:—**MATCHES.**—There has been a little movement in this article and a slight demand is springing up from various quarters. Sales reported are:—100 cases Vienna, 5 colours, at £17.50; 200 cases paraffine, 5 boys, at £15.00; 50 cases paraffine, elephant, at £14.00. **WINDOW GLASS.**—At auction some 1,200 boxes in bad order were sold at £2.11. Good cargo is saleable at about quotations. **NEEDLES.**—Sales have been of a retail character and Indent goods which are arriving freely are worked off slowly. **DYES AND COLORS.**—Very little has been doing in this line, small sales of violet have been made at 9 caudareens and orange at 8 caudareens. Other sales reported are:—1,500 tins ea. 8 oz. magenta, flower chop, at £0.16; 1,000 bottles ea. 2 oz. green crystals, horse chop, at £0.12½; 5,000 tins ea. 8 oz. violet, 2 boys chop, at £0.28; 10,000 bottles ea. 2 oz. eosine at £0.14.

Kerosene Oil.—A large business has been done in cargo to arrive at rates ranging from £1.25 down to £1.23½, and some 10,000 cases damaged have been sold at auction at £1.16 to £1.21. The market closes weak at £1.24. Stocks are 288,500 cases.

Opium.—Closing quotations:—Malwa, new, at £396; old, at £412; Patna, new, at £414; Benares, new, at £410.

Coal.—From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report. Our Coal market remains dull in the extreme, with few offers for any kinds.

CARDIFF.—Stocks large, and nothing doing. A cargo of about 1,700 tons sailed from Cardiff on 4th January for this port.

AUSTRALIAN.—The enquiry for Wollongong is very small, we have heard of no transactions.

NEWCASTLE.—The cargo of the *Taiwan*, 1,683 tons, was sold to arrive at £6.25 per ton ex godown.

AMERICAN ANTHRACITE.—No offers.

JAPAN.—Market overstocked.

	Per ton.		Per ton.
Cardiff, ex ship	£18.25 sales.	Japan, Takasima lump, ex godown in small lots	£15.52 nominal.
American Anthracite, to arrive, ex ship	9.50 nominal.	Miiké lump, ex ship	4.40 "
Sydney, Wollongong, ex sailing ship	6.40 "	" dust, ex ship	3.60 "
" steam cargo ex godown	6.50 "	Imabuko, ex ship	2.25 week
Newcastle, N.S.W., ex ship	5.50 "	Karatz, ex ship (best)	3.75 "
Japan, Takasima lump, ex ship	4.75 "	Keelung, ex ship	3.50 "
" dust, ex ship	3.00 "		

(The above quotations are for cargo, and do not represent rates for small lots ex godown, which fluctuate with the supply and demand.)

Arrivals during the fortnight have been:—Mixed Japan, 4,301 tons; Miiké lump, 1,072 tons; Takasima lump, 1,350 tons; Takasima dust, 947 tons; Newcastle, 1,683 tons; total, 9,353 tons.

EXPORTS.

Silk.—From Messrs. Cromie & Burkill's circular:—London telegrams quote the market dull.

RAW SILKS.—There is no change in prices to report this week, natives have shown some inclination to speculate in chop Tsatlees, but for shipment the business doing has been a trifling one, settlements of all kinds reaching only 500 bales.

TSATLEES.—Purchases are about 150 bales at £362½ for best No. 4.

HANGCOWS.—No sales.

TAYSAAMS.—A few bales of Green Kahings have changed hands at £262½.

YELLOW SILKS.—Rather over 100 bales have been taken at £285 for Shantung "Gold Buffalo," at £240 for Kopun, at £217½ for Meeyang, at £207½ to £212½ for ordinary to best Fooyung, and at £162½ for Szechong.

Arrivals, as per Custom Returns, from the 2nd to the 8th March, are about 250 bales of White Silks and 45 piculs of Yellow.

RE-REELS.—Settlements for to-morrow's American Mail are nearly 200 bales. Prices close steady at £480 for best chop, at £375 for Market No. 1, and at £325 for Market No. 3.

WILD SILKS.—About 80 piculs of Tussah Raw have been sold at £110.

WASTE SILKS.—Nothing to report.

SHANTUNG PONGEES.—No sales.

Purchases include:—**TSATLEE**—Large Elephant I at £362½, Gold Lion I at £362½, Y-kee IV at £355, Mountain II at £342½, Cheung-ling at £300. **TAYSAAM**—Green Kahings III at £262½. **YELLOW SILK**—Shantung Gold Buffalo at £285, Kopun at £240, Meeyang at £217½, Fooyung best at £212½, Szechong at £162½. **TUSSAH**—Raw I at £110. **RE-REELLED TSATLEES**—Best chop at £480, Market III at £325.

	1885-86.	1884-85.	1883-84.	1882-83.	1881-82.	1880-81.
Settlements for this mail †	about 500	500	1,000	750	200	1,000 bales.
" for the season †	49,750	52,000	47,300	44,750	45,700	78,500 "
Stock	6,250	5,000	3,500	20,000	15,500	4,500 "
Total Arrivals	56,000	57,000	50,800	64,750	61,200	83,000 "

† Exclusive of purchases for re-sale on this market.

	*England.	*France, &c.	Total Europe.	America.	India & Egypt.	Coast & Straits.	Grand Total.
Export White Silk	8,269	24,021	32,290	6,242	707	782	40,021 bales.
" Yellow	50	3,576	3,626	18	1,645	372	5,661 "
" Wild	171	2,777	2,948	24	3	38	3,013 "
	8,490	30,374	38,864	6,284	2,355	1,192	48,695 "
Against in 1884-85	8,017	35,284	43,301	4,381	2,503	988	51,173 bales.
" 1883-84	16,373	25,356	41,729	2,430	1,126	873	46,158

* Many shipments are now sent optional, Marseilles or London. Also 2,535 piculs Old Silk Wadding to London.

Tea.—**BLACK.**—Market closed.

GREEN.—No business worth reporting has been done during the past week. A few blues have been settled which has cleared the market of Country Tea, leaving a stock of about 4,100 half-chests Pinguany, which is held for prices above buyers' ideas.

No further supplies are expected.

EXPORT FROM SHANGHAI AND YANGTZE PORTS.

From commencement of season to date.	1885-86.			1884-85.			1883-84.		
	Black.	Green.	Total.	Black.	Green.	Total.	Black.	Green.	Total.
To Great Britain	66,421,771	11,123,081	77,544,852 lbs.	64,840,709	8,858,622	73,699,331 lbs.	67,035,402	7,946,638	74,982,040 lbs.
Russia direct	8,118,272	.....	8,118,272 ..	11,654,344	.....	11,654,344 ..	10,746,694	.....	10,746,694 ..
America	2,866,327	15,527,588	18,413,915 ..	3,225,757	14,629,835	17,855,592 ..	2,615,211	11,340,331	13,955,542 ..
And from all China. Season—	1885-86.			1884-85.			1883-84.		
To Great Britain	139,136,168	11,123,081	150,259,249 ;	135,790,436	8,858,622	144,649,058 ;	143,239,481	7,946,638	151,186,119 lbs.
America from China and Japan .....	.....	.....	79,702,357 .....	.....	.....	69,914,847 .....	.....	.....	.....

Freight.—From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report:—We have as yet no improvement to report in our freight market, and so far as we have heard no settlements have been effected for the Newchwang trade; this port is expected to be free of ice about the 21st instant. A fleet of nine steamers left this on the 6th instant for Tientsin. For London via Suez Canal—The Mails and Holt's line have the berth to themselves at previous rates, viz:—Tea and waste silk 57s. 6d. General cargo 47s. 6d. Rush hats, matting and gall nuts 36s., with very little cargo offering. The s.s. *Flintshire* is shortly due from Japan, and will load at conference rates. The British barque *Wylo* having sailed leaves no sailing vessel on the berth. For New York via Suez Canal—The *Prints Friedrich Carl* will be dispatched about the 18th instant via Hongkong, and has all her allotted space taken up here. Rate 35s. per 40 cubic feet. Departure for New York via Hongkong—Nil. Departures for London via Amoy and Swatow and Suez Canal—26th February Glen line steamer *Glencarn*; 23th February Holt's str. *Ulysses*, March 6th *Anchises*. Departure for London—British barque *Wylo*, March 2nd.

Quotations are:—Newchwang to Swatow, season closed. Chefoo to Swatow, 14 Mex. cents per picul, for steamers, not regular coasters, nominal. Nagasaki to Shanghai, \$1.30 per ton of coal, landed terms, for steamers; \$1.25 ex ship for sailing vessel, nominal. (These rates include any cargo hence to Nagasaki for Charterer's account freight free.)

Keelung and back, \$2.00 per ton nominal. Foochow and back, \$3.00 per Register ton, no enquiry.

Settlements during the fortnight have been:—*Activa*, German steamer, 334 tons, Nagasaki to Shanghai, \$1.05 per ton of coal, if to Arsenal \$1.15 per ton coal, despatch. *Wismar*, German steamer, 556 tons, same voyage, \$800 in full despatch. *Ingeborg*, British steamer, 436 tons, same voyage, \$900 in full, despatch. *Tetuan*, British barque, 437 tons, hence to Amoy, \$800 in full, 12 lay days. *Gulf of Suez*, British steamer, 1,014 tons, Nagasaki to Hongkong, \$1.15 per ton coal, despatch (settled in Nagasaki). *Nierstein*, German steamer, 731 tons, Nagasaki to this, \$1.10 per ton of coal, despatch. *Bona Fides*, Norwegian ship, 1,002 tons, Chefoo to Swatow, 12 cents per picul, 26 lay days. *Anglo Indian*, British barque, 444 tons, Chefoo to Amoy, 15 cents per picul, 20 lay days.

Shares.—Rates for Hongkong & Shanghai Bank stock have steadily advanced during the week from 182 to 186 per cent. premium and exchange 73, the market is firm. In Insurance shares the following sales are recorded:—Yangtzes at £123; Hongkong Fires at \$382½; China Fires at \$81 and 80 and exchange 73. French Gas shares were sold at £170, without dividend. In Wharf shares—Shanghai & Hongkew have been placed at £155 during the week and to-day at £160; Footings at £85 and 86; and Birts at £20. Waterworks have been placed to a good extent at £31.5/ for early delivery and £32 to £31.10/ for end of April, and one sale for cash at £31.5/. Sheridan Mining shares were done at £80.

Exchange.—There has been a fair demand for bank remittances, but the supply of private paper has been small during the week. The market closes steady. Some lacs of rupees have been sold at quotations.

DAILY QUOTATIONS.

(From Messrs. Morriss & Fergusson's Weekly Circular.)

	ON LONDON.								FRANCE.		HONGKONG.	INDIA.
	T/Transfers.		Bank 4 m/s.		Credits 4 m/s.		Docty. 4 m's.		Francs 4 m/s. and 6 do.	Rupees. T. transfers.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.		
Thursday, 4th	4.6½	4.6½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	5.86/89	5.86/89	27½	305
Friday, 5th	4.6½	4.6½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	5.86/89	5.86/89	27½	304½/5
Saturday, 6th	4.6½	4.6½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	5.86/89	5.86/89	27½	304½/5
Monday, 8th	4.6½	4.6½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	5.85/88	5.86/89	27½	304½/5
Tuesday, 9th	4.6½	4.6½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	5.86/89	5.86/89	27½	304½/5
Wednesday, 10th...	4.6½	4.6½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	5.86/89	5.86/89	27½	304½/5

AUCTION SALES.

COTTON GOODS.

Grey Shirts.—8½-lbs.—Total for the week, 20,090 pieces.

At E-w, 3rd instant, 1,500 pieces; Tea Caddy X.X. Black, D.D.D. Blue, and Double Blue at £1.41/41½, £1.58½/58½, and £1.70½/70½ per piece.

At Yuen-fong, 4th instant, 9,190 pieces; at £1.19½/20 for Double Lighthouse, £1.22½ for Two Man, £1.24/24½ for House, £1.32½ and £1.45½ for Blue and Painted Britannia, £1.35½, £1.45½ and £1.49½ for Four Sisters, Blue, Red and Gold, £1.42½/42½ and £1.49½ for Three Students, Blue and mildewed Red, £1.55½/55½ for Five Brothers, £1.52½/53 for Green Unicorn.

At Kin-ming, this morning, 6,400 pieces; at £1.28½/28½, £1.34, and £1.41½/42½ for Lion, Green, Blue and Red, £1.39½/39 for Red Pelican, £1.39 for Red Two Wing, and £1.55½ for Red Hunting Horn.

At Pao-shun, this afternoon, 3,000 pieces; at £1.41½ for Lion on-Bale, £1.51½ for Gold Vulture, £1.57/57½ for Green Lion A, and £1.27½/42½ for Double Butterfly, damaged.

6-lbs.—1,275 pieces; at £0.91½/91½ for Two Man, £0.93½ for Blue Three Students, and £0.90½ for Blue Stork.

7-lbs.—2,240 pieces; at £1.13½ for Blue Britannia, £1.15½/16 for Blue Four Sisters, £1.20 for Blue Three Students, and £1.15/14½ for Silver Lion.

9½-lbs. a 11-lbs.—2,850 pieces; at £2.03½ and £2.07½ for Blue Tea Caddy X.X. and D.D.D., £1.88½ and £1.95½/95½ for Blue and Red Britannia, £1.96½/97 and £2.23½/24 for Red and Painted Three Students, £2.00 for Blue Lion, and £2.32½ for Chop Dollar.

12-lbs.—570 pieces English; at £1.92/92½ for Red Fox, £2.31½/32 for Soldier, and £2.39½ for Double Squirrel.

White Shirts.—64-reed, 4,800 pieces; at £1.45/45½ for Blue Star, £1.34½ and £1.31½ for House, dressed and undressed, £1.40½/40½ and £1.34½/35½ for Blue Lighthouse, dressed and undressed, and £1.36½ for Green Lion.

72-reed.—3,580 pieces; at £1.78½ for Green Angler, £1.86½/87½ and £1.86½/87 for Red Lighthouse, dressed and undressed, and £2.03½/04 and £2.07½ for Gold Star, dressed and undressed.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs., 2,580 pieces; at £1.02½/03 and £0.96½/96½ for Blue and Red Peacock, £1.16 for Red Tea Caddy, £1.03½/04½ and £1.20½ for Blue and Painted Britannia, £1.08 and £1.30 for Blue and Red Three Students, £1.10½ for Blue Lion, and £1.22½ and £1.30½/30½ for Eagle X.X. and X.X.X.

8-lbs.—1,150 pieces; at £1.27½ for Blue Lion, £1.59/59½ for Painted Three Students, and £1.41½/41½ and £1.59½ for Eagle X.X. and X.X.X.

Drills.—English, 840 pieces; at £1.62/63 for *Dragon*, £2.11½ for *Stag*, £2.30½/30½ for *Britannia*, and £2.34/34½ for *Old Man Head*.

Jeans.—English, 360 pieces; at £1.36½ for *Peacock*, and £1.76½/77½ for *Double Squirrel*.

Sheetings.—English, 200 pieces *Old Man Head* at £2.47½/48 per piece; and 340 pieces *American, New Lion*, sea-damaged, at £2.39½/41½ per piece.

Cotton Yarn.—10 bales English, 28/32s. *Red and Gold Three Students* at £54½, £58½, and £61½ for the former, and £67, £67½ and £70½ for the latter.

Turkey Reds.—560 pieces; at £0.89½ for 2-lb. *Wheelbarrow*, and £0.94/95 and £1.02½ for 2-lbs. and 2½-lbs. *Mandarin*.

Velvets.—150 pieces *Woman* at £0.13.3½/13.3 per yard.

Velveteens.—*Stag*, 90 pieces 26-inch. at £0.18.0½/18 per yard.

Figured Orleans.—40 pieces *Dragon Fish* at £3.00 per piece.

WOOLLENS.

Auctions—	Scarlet.	Dk. Blue.	Gentian.	Green, and New Green.	Orange and Yellow.	Ash & Lav.	White	Purple	Black	Brown & Mag.	Mauve.	Lt. Gt.	Sales Pcs.
E-wo, 3rd instant.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Pcs.
Camlets, Horseman p.p.	9.02	.....	9.38	8.72½	8.50	.....	.....	.....	7.93	.....	.....	8.62	.....
House, p.p.	40	.....	10	10	10	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	20	100
Warrior p.p.	8.75/76	.....	8.71	.....	7.36	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.00	7.85	.....
Sales, pcs.	30	.....	20	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	10	90
Boar	8.82½	.....	8.70	.....	7.47½	.....	.....	.....	7.07	.....	.....	7.66	.....
Sales, pcs.	20	.....	10	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	10	60
Long Ells, H.D.B. p.p.	5.09/10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, p.p.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100
S.Stp., H.D.B., p.yd.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Eagle, p.p.	0.41½	0.41½	0.45.1/45.4	0.43	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.39.8	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	24	12	18	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	72
Stag, p.p.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
JIN-KEE, 3rd instant.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
S. Stripes, Star, p.p.	0.41½	.....	0.45.6	0.43.1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.41.9	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	48	.....	12	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.42.8	.....	.....	84
YUEN-FONG, 4th inst.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Camlets, S.S.G. p.p.	9.45/50	9.95/10.00	9.92½/10.00	.....	9.62½/75	.....	10.25	9.72½	.....	.....	10.00/02½	9.82½.85	.....
Sales, pcs.	250	90	150	.....	30	.....	10	10	.....	.....	30	30	600
G.G. p.p.	9.72½/75	10.10/27½	10.00/02½	10.60/77½	10.37½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10.10/22½	10.02½	.....
Sales, pcs.	120	40	80	20	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	10	300
Stork	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Long Ells, G.G., p.p.	5.05/07	4.61	5.02	5.16	.....	.....	.....	5.28	4.13	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	180	40	20	20	.....	.....	.....	20	20	.....	.....	.....	300
Lasting, G.G., p.p.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8.80/85	.....	.....	9.32½	.....
Sales, pcs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	160	.....	.....	40	200
Man & Tiger	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
S.Stripes, T.T.B.	0.46	0.48	0.49	0.49½	.....	0.48	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	66	12	30	6	.....	0.49½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	126
Man & Tiger	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
SIN-WO, To-day.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Camlets, Owl, p.p.	9.06	8.92	9.75	9.06	8.87	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	10	10	10	10	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
GoldFish, P.P.P.	9.11/10	8.93	9.74	9.19	8.61	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	40	20	10	10	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100
Angler, R.R.R.	8.88	8.61	9.44	8.69	8.26	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	10	10	10	10	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
Long Ells, H.H., p.p.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lastings, H.H. p.p.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8.09/09	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
S.Stripes, H.H.	0.45½/45.9	0.47.8	0.51.9/51.8	0.49	0.48.6	.....	.....	.....	0.47	.....	.....	.....	80
Sales, pcs.	144	12	36	12	6	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	216
GoldFish, P.P.P.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
KIN-MING, To-day.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lastings, C.P.H. p.p.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Elephant p.p.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
S.Stripes, C.P.H. p.p.	0.45½/45.3	.....	0.45.8/45.9	0.45½	0.45½	0.48.0.45	.....	0.45½	0.42½	0.42	0.45½	0.47.6	.....
Sales, pcs.	72	.....	12	3	3	3	6	3	12	3	3	24	144

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

For Str. "OXUS," cleared 3rd March, for LONDON.—Strawbraid 153.70 piculs. For PARIS—Musk 0.04½ picul. For MARSEILLES.—Musk 0.28½ picul. Hides 342.22 piculs. Tallow 3.45 piculs. Treasure—taels 1,125. For NAPLES.—Hides 58.25 piculs. For LEGHORN.—Hides 207.81 piculs.

For Str. "ANCHISES," cleared 6th March, for LONDON.—Feathers 186.14 piculs. Strawbraid 59.02 piculs. For HAMBURG.—Feathers 139.42 piculs. Needles 5,000 mil. Perfumery 150 packages.

QUOTATIONS—DUTY PAID.				DUTY.		QUOTATIONS—DUTY PAID.				DUTY.								
				T'ls. m. c.						T'ls. m. c.								
G. E. GRAY SHIRTINGS—				T.M.C. T.M.C.		PRINTED TWILLS—24/25 yds				T.M.C. T.M.C.								
6-lbs 39-in 38½-yds.....	nom	pc.	0.90	1.05	0.08 per pce.	50/52 ..	2.65	3.35	0.07 per 30 yd.									
7-lbs			0.97½	1.25		Special ...	3.70											
Dewhurst's Eagle			None															
8½ to 8½-lbs			1.12½	1.65		TURKEY REDS—												
D. Eagle and XX			1.70	1.72		24-yd 1½ to 3-lbs. 32-in, nom	pc.	0.70	1.40	0.15 per pce.								
9 to 9½-lbs	nom		1.72½	1.90		Best		1.25	1.80									
9½ to 10-lbs			1.77½	2.20														
Dewhurst's, Best			2.10	2.35		VELVETS—Black, 22-in.....				nom	pc.	0.12½	0.18	0.18 per pce.				
11 to 12-lbs English 36 in..			2.05	2.42		VELVETEENS—Black, 18-in ...				26-in ..		0.010½	0.14½		0.15 "			
12-lbs American 32/56 in..			2.20	2.45									0.16½	0.20				
G. E. WHITE SHIRTINGS—						BLUE DENIMS				nom		0.03	0.04	5 per cent. ad. val.				
40-yds 36-in 56-rd.....	pc.		1.15	1.30	DIMITIES—12-yd 37-in.....				pc.		0.90	1.20	0.06½ per pce.					
60-reel			1.20	1.35					41-in		1.00	1.35		0.03½ "				
64			1.30	1.75	MUSLINS—12-yd 42-in.....						0.45	0.72½	0.03½ "					
64 .. Best and 66-reel ...			1.65	1.87½	YARN—COTTON—Nos. 28/32.						52.50	75.00		0.70 per pol.				
72 to 80-reel			1.75	2.20					16/24, nom		52.00	62.00						
Best			2.10	3.40	CAMLETS—English, SS.....				pc.		8.50	12.30						
DRILLS, Am. 40-yd 30-in 14-lbs	pc.		2.45	2.57½	0.10 "	GG		10.00										
English, .. 14 to 15-lbs ..			1.52½	1.90		SSG		9.74										
Good to Finest			1.95	2.57½		HDB		9.22										
Dutch, 14 to 14½-lbs.....	nom		2.00	2.30		CPH		9.63										
JEANS, Dh., 30-yd 30-in 8½-lbs	pc.		1.40	1.68	0.07½ "	Dutch, 33 to 24-in nom.		15.00		18.00								
English, .. 8 to 8½-lbs ..			1.30	1.75		Do. 37-in.....		17.25		22.00								
American, .. Beaver.....			1.50	1.95	MEDIUM & BROAD CLOTHS ...				pc.		0.65	1.40						
SHEETINGS—						SPANISH STRIPES						0.35	0.55					
Am., 40-yd 36/38-in 14-lb. nom.	pc.		2.25	2.65	0.08 "	HDB		0.45½										
Eng., .. 14 to 16-lb. ..			1.50	2.50		TTB		0.46		0.49½								
T. CLOTHS—						"		0.45½		0.52								
6-lbs 24-yd 32-in Ord., nom	pc.		0.75	0.90	0.04 "	"		0.45		0.50								
7-lbs			0.80	0.95		"		0.45		0.50								
6-lbs Mexican.....			none			"		0.42½		0.476								
7-lbs			0.97½	1.30		LONG ELLS—												
7-lbs Mexican Special chops			1.25	1.75	0.08 "	Scarlet, 24-yd GG.....	pc.	5.05		5.07								
8 to 8½-lbs			1.05	1.60		"	"	BH.....		5.31		5.32						
Better kinds and XX			1.72½	2.00		"	"	CPH.....	nom.		5.00		5.05					
HANDKERCHIEFS—						"	"	UU		5.15		5.17½						
Blue, 28 to 32-in	doz.		0.40	0.52	0.02½ pe doz.	"	"	HDB		5.09		5.10						
Brown	nom		0.37½	0.41		"	"	V		5.09		5.10						
SPOTTED SHIRTINGS—White.	pc.		1.80	2.00		"	"	Saudries ..		3.50		5.30						
Dyed, nom			2.00	2.30		Assorted, HH		nom.										
BROCADES—White, 40-yd ..			1.85	2.00	0.15 "	"	CPH											
Dyed			2.20	2.45	0.10 "	"	GG.....											
DAMASKS—Dyed, 40-yd, nom			2.25	3.75	0.15 "	"	UU											
GENTIAN SHIRTINGS			1.85	2.20	0.20 "	LASTINGS, 30-yd				pc.		5.00		8.50	0.05			
CHINTZ—Assorted	pc.		1.00	1.40	0.15 "	CRAPE LASTINGS, 30-yd nom						2.25		5.75				
Blue			0.90	1.15	0.07 per pce.	CRAPE LUSTRES												
Brown.....	nom		1.10	1.20		PLAIN LUSTRES, Black.....						2.75		3.40		0.20 per pol.		
Scarlet			1.20	1.40		ORLEANS—Figured, 30-yd ..						2.20		2.70				
						Special Colors & Patterns ..						2.50		3.30				

Per Chain of 141 inches.

Statement of Imports and Deliveries of Cotton and Woollen Piece Goods for the week ending 8th March, 1886, compiled from the "Customs Daily Returns," Nos. 47 to 52, both numbers inclusive.

RE-EXPORTS AND THEIR DESTINATIONS.

Goods.	Ningpo.	Wenchow.	Chinkiang.	Wuhu.	Kinkiang.	Rankow.	Chefoo.	Tientsin.	Newchwang.	Foochow.	Hongkong.	Nagasaki.	Higo.	Yokohama.	Corea.	Local.	Mundrae.
Gray Shirtings †.....Pcs.	4,060	400	13,450	4,080	1,680	20,820	3,280	...	...	1,075	...	2,750	...	...	4	15,480	410
T-Cloths, 32-in.	425	555	2,135	625	...	3,290	4,150	...	...	1,29	...	...	...	...	2	2,150	1200
" 36-in.	150	...	100	240	540	540	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	500	...
White Shirtings	480	130	1,930	820	700	13,138	1,010	...	...	150	50	...	150	200	...	1,360	530
Drills, English & Dutch	...	...	...	...	180	735	...	...	...	90	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
" American	...	...	105	15	105	750	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	180	...
Jeans, English & Dutch	...	...	240	...	30	80	400	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	...
" American	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sheetings, English	...	...	300	380	40	1,850	620	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	280	...
" American	...	...	10	45	...	240	2,435	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	620	...
Dyed Shirtings	620	...	3,857	...	60	490	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	...
Brocades & Sp. Stings, White	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Dyed	...	...	...	50	100	510	340	...	...	90	...	...	...	...	...	50	...
Damasks, Dyed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80	...
Chintzes	200	...	680	60	110	1,810	160	...	...	60	...	...	...	...	...	380	...
Printed T-Cloths	60	...	160	...	...	280	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	...
Printed Twills	80	...	160	...	...	400	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75	80
Turkey Red Shirtings	65	108	725	163	...	1,285	1,315	...	...	314	...	...	...	...	...	180	200
Velvets	...	...	30	24	...	120	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90	...
Velvetees	...	...	54	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	...
Handkerchiefs Doz.	...	...	1,900	200	140	750	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	...
Muslins Pcs.	100	...	200	...	100	300	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,000	300	...
Dimities	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cotton Yarn Pcls.	...	...	...	...	270	1,185	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spanish Stripes Pcs.	36	114	42	...	66	240	...	...	...	60	48	...	...	...	...	54	6
Medium and Broad Cloths ..	12	6	30	6	18	138	70	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	...
Camlets	50	60	90	70	180	740	90	...	...	120	60	...	...	...	...	150	70
Long Ells	...	20	160	20	140	920	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
Lastings	...	20	60	...	60	1,000	70	...	...	100	...	...	...	...	...	60	50
" Crape	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lastings, Cotton & Italians ..	120	...	290	...	30	1,759	740	...	...	30	20	...	...	...	...	40	90
Lustres, Plain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	...
" Figured	...	...	460	...	...	380	...	...	...	60	...	...	...	...	...	180	60
" Crape	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lead in Pipe Pcls.	...	...	434	27	1,134	4,171	...	...	...	2,341	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Iron—Nail Rod	...	176	1,305	661	...	1,398	609	1,680	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TOTAL DELIVERIES.

TOTAL IMPORTS.

STOCKS AT DATE ARE BASED ON THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RETURNS, DATED 1ST JAN., 1886.

Goods.	As above.	For Year From 1st Jan'y 1886.	Against last year same term.	For the Week.	For Year From 1st Jan'y 1886.	Against last year same term.	*At date Estimated.	Against 9th March, 1885.
Gray Shirtings †.....Pcs.	67,489	507,666	521,857	90,218	668,855	654,205	1,126,200	1,220,000
T-Cloths, 32-in.	15,822	100,017	100,210	18,410	155,899	177,969	333,700	492,600
" 36-in.	2,130	19,615	17,660	4,040	52,206	51,589	116,670	150,000
White Shirtings	20,648	146,402	115,651	30,048	262,157	244,394	534,110	377,000
Drills, English and Dutch ..	1,205	7,155	12,105	8,490	74,695	30,720	100,700	78,400
" American	1,155	15,300	6,045	9,750	41,400	26,250	40,600	29,600
Jeans, English and Dutch ..	810	3,640	6,220	1,520	18,940	13,560	38,360	32,600
" American	...	120	200	...	...	...	7,900	12,200
Sheetings, English	3,470	27,895	17,662	4,097	53,747	31,976	103,960	91,000
" Am.	3,440	24,100	10,580	39,960	113,010	114,755	321,200	191,600
Dyed Shirtings	5,177	10,739	3,194	4,045	14,319	17,386	9,540	20,100
Bro. & Spot. Shts., White	150	750	46	400	3,285	...	4,970	3,300
" Dyed	1,140	4,657	3,565	1,250	3,472	3,526	11,450	1,250
Damasks, Dyed	80	470	680	...	...	474	170	2,660
Chintzes	3,460	18,649	9,799	11,464	62,877	13,694	97,100	60,900
Printed T-Cloths	710	5,163	2,980	984	11,632	16,536	65,140	...
Printed Twills	795	8,109	7,423	9,189	39,986	13,856	108,000	89,300
Turkey Red Shirtings	4,355	34,914	33,513	4,890	55,535	43,761	188,600	105,200
Velvets	294	3,853	3,798	2,610	8,372	7,972	19,840	4,400
Velvetees	114	976	1,140	700	8,954	1,421	10,100	1,250
Handkerchiefs Doz.	3,390	29,670	30,126	4,235	30,868	9,620	98,070	117,700
Muslins Pcs.	4,000	46,800	10,588	11,531	68,826	25,775	102,800	96,500
Dimities	...	300	...	...	250	...	...	300
Cotton Yarn Pcls.	1,455	12,885	4,281	4,841	16,895	6,103	23,630	8,700
Spanish Stripes Pcs.	786	4,960	4,422	1,634	11,306	6,552	20,800	12,100
Medium and Broad Cloths ..	320	2,062	1,664	1,985	5,493	2,246	17,930	19,700
Camlets	1,680	14,200	13,763	2,189	13,909	11,532	16,160	15,300
Long Ells	1,400	10,290	11,760	2,080	12,560	9,120	7,770	19,400
Lastings	1,420	12,195	9,966	5,020	23,143	17,198	36,540	28,000
" Crape	40	120	80	160	160	260	1,240	1,180
Cotton Lastings & Italians ..	3,119	25,053	24,530	16,189	85,041	50,940	214,970	107,600
Lustres, Plain	50	40	550	...	650	558	1,700	158
" Figured	1,140	7,860	5,701	1,640	14,799	6,320	33,900	17,400
" Crape	...	3	...	...	...	...	797	...
Lead in Pipe Pcls.	8,107	23,644	11,373	7,158	23,124	24,062	...	...
Iron—Nail Rod	5,789	25,817	17,659	14,356	48,796	4,704	...	...

* Exclusive of Import Cargoes ex *Thames, Atalanta—Cassandra, Jason, Saghalien, Deucalion, Strathleven, Glengarry, Menelaus, and Clyde.*

Import Cargoes declared *Glencarn, Peshawur, and Anchises*; and additional ex *Teheran, Priam, Oopack, Nepaul, Glenfinlas, Stentor, Sarpedon and Glenartney.*

† Including English and Dutch 12-lbs.

COMMERCIAL POSTSCRIPT.

10TH MARCH, 1886.

The P. & O. Co.'s str. *Peshawur* takes about 612 bales of SILK and about 60 tons of TEA.

EXCHANGE.—On London—Telegraphic Transfer, 4s. 6½d.; Demand rate 4s. 7d.; Bank Bills, 4 months' sight, 4s. 7½d. a 4s. 7½d.; First-class Credit to Bank 4 months' sight, 4s. 7½d., 6 months' sight, 4s. 8d. Private and Documentary, 4 months' sight, 4s. 7½d.; 6 months' sight, 4s. 8½d. On France—Bank Bills, demand, Fcs. 5.78, Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' 5.86; 6 months' sight, 5.89. On New York—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, 87½. On Hongkong—Telegraphic Transfers, 27½; Private Bills, 3 days' sight, 28. On Bombay—Telegraphic Transfers, Rs. 304½ a 305; Calcutta, Rs. 304½ a 305. Bullion—Gold Bar, Pekin, 98 touch, £211.50. Silver Bars, £111.15. Mexican Dollars, £73.20. Copper Cash, 1,480.

SHARES.

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—This stock has been in demand at rates steadily advancing from 182% premium to 186% premium and exchange 73. From Hongkong purchases have been made at from 183% to 185% premiums. The market closes firm.

Pootung Dock Co.—Shares have been placed at £132½.

Compagnie du Gaz.—A lot has been sold at £170 ex dividend.

Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited.—Shares are wanted at \$475.

Yangtze Insurance Association, Limited.—A transaction is reported at £123. There are sellers at the same rate.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co.—Business has been done in this stock at \$382½ and ex. 73. Buyers offer \$380, but shares are held for \$382½.

China Fire Insurance Co.—Shares have changed hands at \$81 and \$80, and exchange 73.

Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—One or two lots were sold at £155. To-day a sale is reported at £160.

Birt's Wharf Co.—Shares were sold at £20.

Pootung Wharf & Godown Co.—Shares have been sold for cash at £85 and £86. The market is strong with buyers.

Sheridan Mining Co.—A lot was placed at £80. There are buyers at £70, but shares are held for higher rates.

Shanghai Waterworks' Co.—Some large lots have been placed at £31½ for early delivery, and at £32 to £32½ for 30th April. A sale is also reported at £31½ for cash.

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	POSITION PER LAST REPORT.			LAST DIVIDEND, &c.		CASH QUOTATIONS.
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Shareholders.	When pd. or due.	
<i>Bank.</i>									
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Co.	60,000	\$125	\$125	4,500,000.00	\$63,800.38	31 Dec. 85	* £2½	1 Mar. 86	186%
New Oriental Bank Corp., Ltd.	50,000	£10	£10	\$500,000.00	.....	.....	3½ %	11 Aug. 85	£10.7
<i>Shipping.</i>									
Shanghai Tug Boat Association	1,000	£100	£100	\$14,304.62	.....	31 Mar. 85	|| 2 %	11 Jan. 86	£90
Indo-China Steam Nav. Co.	60,000	£10	£10	\$2,802.38	£117.16.7	31 Dec. 84	+ 3 %	4 Aug. 85	£37
Shanghai Shipping Co.	150	£1,000	£1,000	.....	.....	.....	+ 5 %	3 Aug. 85	£700
<i>Docks.</i>									
Shanghai Dock Co.	440	£500	£500	\$12,000.00	\$5,799.99	31 Dec. 85	* 2 %	15 Jan. 86	325
Pootung Dock Co.	950	£100	£100	.....	\$1,622.69	31 Dec. 85	* 5 %	15 Jan. 86	132½
<i>Gas.</i>									
Shanghai Gas Co.	1,500	£100	£100	\$51,794.47	\$47,565.04	31 Dec. 85	* 6 %	17 Jan. 86	200
Compagnie du Gaz	500	£100	£100	\$17,134.69	\$89.92	31 Dec. 85	* 6 %	2 Mar. 86	170
<i>Insurance (Marine.)</i>									
China Traders' Insurance Co., Limited	24,000	\$83.33	\$25	\$600,000.00	\$200,773.71	30 Apl. 85	18 %	11 Aug. 85	\$72
North-China Ins. Co., Ltd.	5,000	£200	£50	\$100,671.24	\$461,023.02	30 June 85	£20.00	5 May 85	£300
Union Ins. Society of Canton Ltd.	2,000	\$1,250	\$125	\$575,000.00	\$439,089.41	30 June 85	\$31.00	12 Oct. 85	\$475
Yangtze Insurance Ass'n Ltd.	8,000	£25	£25	\$85,000.00	\$92,142.93	31 Mar. 85	* 3½ %	18 Jan. 86	£123
Chinese Insurance Co., Limited	1,500	\$1,000	\$200	\$28,711.50	\$26,610.93	31 Dec. 84	* 3 %	6 Oct. 85	\$177½
Canton Insurance Office	10,000	£250	\$50	\$155,000.00	\$465,214.43	30 Sep. 85	+ 10 %	11 Jan. 86	\$85
<i>Insurance (Fire.)</i>									
Hongkong Fire Ins. Co., Limited	8,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,000,000.00	\$263,482.55	31 Dec. 85	+ \$55 %	3 Mar. 86	\$382½
China Fire Ins. Co., Limited ..	20,000	\$100	\$20	\$666,700.00	\$168,811.67	31 Dec. 85	+ 30 %	2 Mar. 86	\$80
<i>Wharfs.</i>									
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co.	2,867	£100	£100	\$71,700.00	\$68.83	31 Dec. 85	* 5 %	23 Feb. 86	£160
Birt's Wharf Hide-Curing and Wool-Cleaning Company ...	2,100	£50	£50	\$3,449.46	\$2,149.50	31 Oct. 85	* 3½ %	7 Jan. 86	£20
Pootung Wharf & Godown Co.	1,750	£100	£100	.....	\$9,418.94	31 Dec. 85	+ 4½ %	9 Feb. 86	£86
<i>Mining.</i>									
Selangor Tin Mining Co.	2,500	\$100	\$100	.....	± \$90,190.79	18 Dec. 84	None.		\$5
Perak Tin Mining & Smelting Co.	5,000	\$50	\$50	.....	.....	.....	None.		\$20
Sheridan Mining Co.	2,800	£100	£100	.....	\$8,370.14	31 Dec. 84	£4½	22 Dec. 85	£80
<i>Cargo Boats.</i>									
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.	1,000	£200	£200	\$6,710.47	.....	31 Dec. 85	* 5 %	3 Mar. 86	£150 ex. div.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co. ...	1,000	£100	£100	\$1,000.00	\$595.07	31 Dec. 85	+ 5 %	13 Feb. 86	£55 ex div.
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>									
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	6,000	£20	£20	\$5,000.00	\$85.11.10	31 Dec. 84	+ 4 %	14 May 85	£31½
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co.	5,000	£50	£50	.....	± 122,192.29	.....	None.		£15
The Hall & Holtz Co-op'tive Co.	6,000	£50	£50	.....	\$2,632.52	28 Feb. 85	£2½		£33

LOANS.	Amount of Loan.	Outstanding.	Nominal Value.	Rate of Interest.	When Payable.	Closing.
Shanghai Mun. Debentures—Issue 1875	£ 42,800.00	£ 15,000.00	£ 100	8 %	Dec. & June.	£104 nom.
Do. 1878	£ 24,000.00	£ 24,000.00	£ 100	8 %	Do.	£103
Do. 1882	£ 60,000.00	£ 60,000.00	£ 100	7 %	1 ^o .	£105 nom.
Do. 1883	£ 45,000.00	£ 45,000.00	£ 100	7 %	Do.	£105
Do. 1885	£ 30,000.00	£ 30,000.00	£ 100	7 %	Do.	£105 "
China Merchants' S.N. Co. Debentures	£ 300,000	All.	£ 100	7 %	Quarterly	£106½ ex. 4/7½
Chinese Imperial Government Loan 1881	S. \$4,354,000	S. \$2,192,000.00	\$ 500	8 %	May & Nov.	£510
Do. do. 1884 A	\$1,394,700.14	± 976,290.10	\$ 500	8 %	Yearly.	\$ 500 nom.
Do. do. 1884 B	1,394,700.14	All.	\$ 500	8 %	Do.	½ pre. ex int.
Do. do. 1884 C	\$1,594,700.14	All.	\$ 500	8 %	Do.	\$525 ex int.
Do. do. 1885	\$1,394,700.14	All.	\$ 500	8 %	Do.	500 ex int., nom.

* For half-year. || For quarter year. + For year. ± A deficit. \$ Reserve for equalization of dividends. (a) At credit of underwriting account.

J. P. BISSET & Co.